

it would be better to diminish the number of chairs and increase the remuneration.—M. de Renzi has been nominated Professor of the History of Medicine in the University of Naples.

## 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 MEETING TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
SOUTH-EASTERN. Annual.	Crystal Palace.	Wed., May 8, 3 P.M.

### LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of this Branch will be held at Liverpool, on Wednesday, June 5, under the presidency of EDWARD BARRY, Esq.

Gentlemen who intend to read papers, are requested to send notice to the Honorary Secretary as early as possible.

A. T. H. WATERS, M.R.C.P., *Hon. Sec.*  
Liverpool, May 1st, 1861.

## Reports of Societies.

### ROYAL MEDICAL & CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD, 1861.

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

ON A PREVIOUSLY UNOBSERVED PREVENTABLE CAUSE OF IDIOCY, IMBECILITY, AND THE ALLIED AFFECTIONS.

BY THOMAS BALLARD, ESQ.

IDIOCY is neither limited to locality nor to any rank of society. The two most recent writers on the subject—Dr. Howe of Massachusetts, and Dr. Morel of Rouen—attribute it to certain defects, either moral or physical, on the part of the parents; but neither of these theories, nor the more popular one of intermarriage with near relations, seems to afford a satisfactory explanation of its production.

Dr. Guggenbühl, whose experience at the Abendberg is said to have rendered him the greatest existing authority on the subject, has stated the result of his observations to be "that the debased mental and physical condition termed cretinism consists in an affection of the cerebro-spinal system—most probably cerebral oedema; and is associated with rickets, hydrocephalus, and other scrofulous manifestations." He denies the hereditary tendency to it, and regards it as exclusively a local phenomenon, fostered by certain exciting causes which are in operation during the first three years of life; but seems not to have ascertained what these causes are.

Mr. BALLARD had arrived at similar conclusions respecting the interdependence of these various morbid phenomena; the object of the present communication being to direct attention to the cause which he believes to be principally engaged in producing them. In a work

which he had recently published, entitled *A New and Rational Explanation of the Diseases peculiar to Infants and Mothers*, it was shown that "the exercise of the instinctive act of sucking under circumstances unfavourable to the infant obtaining food is a principal source of disease to infants and puerperal women;" and the result of this fruitless sucking being an excessive reflex secretion of gastric and intestinal juices, which corrode and soften the mucous coat of the intestinal canal, thus severely injuring the digestive powers, and consequently preventing the proper growth and nutrition of the various tissues of the body. The frequent and green stools which sucking infants so frequently are the subjects of are the evidence of this process of injury to the intestinal canal being in operation. And thus fruitless sucking becomes the chief cause of the developmental diseases of infants and children, and especially of the very pathological conditions which Dr. Guggenbühl has observed to be associated with cretinism.

The author had observed that idiocy is a condition involving many of these morbid phenomena. The histories of all the cases were similar. They had suffered in infancy persistent diarrhoea, succeeded by fits or some form of convulsive disease. A large majority of them are evidence of long-continued habits of fruitless sucking in the deformity of the jaws, which was caused by some portion of the hand being placed in the mouth for the purpose of sucking it at a period of life when the bones were soft enough to yield to its pressure. The upper jaw was either forced forward, thus causing the upper teeth to project; or the lower jaw was drawn forward in advance of the upper, constituting the deformity known as "underhung." Sometimes the jaws were not deformed, yet the condition of idiocy was extreme; in such cases either the whole mischief had occurred very early in life, so as to blight the growth of the brain, thus producing an idiot with a small head; or the habit of fruitless sucking had been continued under the form of "tongue-sucking." These latter cases add, in the author's opinion, much weight to the present explanation, because the effect upon the intestinal canal was still maintained, the subjects of it having loose evacuations from the bowels, particularly during the night, and the habit being especially practised when in bed. They constituted many of the "dirty patients" in asylums. In addition to the deformity of the jaws, the defective condition of the incisor teeth was another evidence of fruitless sucking stamped upon the idiot; it resulted from the irritation to which the corresponding portion of the mucous membrane of the mouth is subjected during their development.

The sources of fruitless sucking to which infants were very frequently subjected, and from which the retained habits above mentioned are acquired, were three in number—namely,

1. The mother's breast, when it does not yield as much milk as the infant requires.

2. The "sugar-teat," which is frequently placed in the child's mouth by the nurse to keep it quiet. This is probably much practised on the Continent, where idiocy is very common.

3. The prevalent custom of feeding infants through artificial teats, which collapse under the pressure which is necessarily exercised upon them in the act of sucking.

The author then repeated his conviction, that the various forms of convulsive disorders of infants are not dependent upon eccentric causes—such as teething and worms, but that they are really the evidence of cerebral disease, in all probability some degree of oedema, giving rise to congestion and pressure; and that their treatment by hot baths, emetics, purgatives, lancing the gums, etc., is not the most conducive to a perfect recovery. The only effectual mode of treatment is to abstract blood, either by leeches applied to the temple, or from the external jugular vein by venesection, accord-

The Medico-Ethical Association were fully informed of these particulars; its leading members more fully than I can give them. They knew that Mr. Robertson in his long life had before never so much as spoken to a homœopath; that he was as little a believer in the system as in Mormonism or witchcraft; and he stated to several of them that no circumstances could persuade him ever to yield thus far again. If, after being thus informed, they had chosen to express their disapproval of the course pursued, even in the most stringent terms, little could have been said further, than that they had strained a very proper professional rule in its application to a most delicate and perplexing case. No doubt, Mr. Robertson would have acquiesced in silence, and admitted, as he did, that he had been compelled by circumstances demanding our utmost sympathy and forbearance to do that which he hardly wished to defend even under those circumstances.

Very far otherwise, however, must the matter be viewed when they have thought fit to endeavour to brand as a supporter of quackery, before the whole profession of the kingdom, one who so little deserves the stigma. By rushing into print, and publishing, in every medical journal, the correspondence on the subject—a correspondence, too, evidently not intended for publication, but merely formal, and supplementary to the personal explanations he had given—they have endeavoured to put him in that light; and I repeat that I have not spoken to a member of our profession here who does not look on the endeavour as cruel and harsh in the extreme—an unnecessary blow aimed at the grey hairs of one who was entitled to professional esteem when most of its inflictors were yet in their cradles. No useful object was to be served by the wide-spread publication. The principle at stake is recognised on all hands, and was unimpugned by Mr. Robertson himself. Homœopathy is, or rather was till lately, but too rife here; and every effort is laudable to show that regular members of the profession will not condescend to pretend to its formularies for the sake of gain. No one can aid or has aided us more than yourself; but we shall not aid ourselves by falling unnecessarily foul of some of the best of our own body; and I am sure you will be glad to allow me thus to endeavour to remove a false impression which many at a distance might form of the merits of the present case. I am but slightly known to Mr. Robertson personally; but I cannot allow such an old and esteemed Associate to be undefended in the pages of our own JOURNAL.

I am, etc.,

J. THORBURN, M.D.,

Hon. Local Sec. to Brit. Med. Assoc.

**SMALL-POX AMONG THE AMERICAN INDIANS.** Mr. Prescott, in his *History of the Conquest of Mexico*, describes small-pox as sweeping over the land like fire over the prairies, smiting down prince and peasant, leaving its path strewn with the dead bodies of the natives, who (in the language of a contemporary) "perished in heaps, like cattle stricken with the murrain." Even in our own day, dire evidences have been given by Catlin of its destructive agency amongst the American Indians. "Thirty millions of white men," he observes, "are now struggling and scuffling for the goods and luxuries of life over the bones and ashes of twelve millions of red men, six millions of whom have fallen victims to the small-pox, the remainder to the sword, the bayonet, or whisky." Washington Irving mentions entire tribes as having been wholly, or in great measure, exterminated by it. The tribe of Mandans was completely swept away; the Assiniboinas, the Blackfeet, the Crows, and the Ricarees, almost so. It is stated, that the translation of the Bible having been made for the Six Nations, by the time it was finished there was not one left to read it, the whole nation having perished of small-pox. (Dr. Collinson.)

## Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND. The following gentlemen passed their first or primary examinations in Anatomy and Physiology, on April 23, 24, 25, 26:

### Edinburgh School of Medicine.

Brittain, T. L.	Lisle, R. P.
Coates, F. W.	Makinson, W.
Compton, J. C.	Renton, W. M.
Corlett, J. B.	Rutherford, W.
Dixon, G.	Smithwaite, S. V.
Foot, H.	Squires, W. W.
Haynes, S. L.	Thorold, E. F.
Hedley, W. S.	Turner, J.
Hughes, T. H.	Weston, G. B.
Jones, J. W. W.	Whitall, J. W.
Land, R. T.	Wilson, J.

### St. George's Hospital.

Bright, J. A.	Leigh, T.
Brodie, G. B.	Lloyd, N. H.
Fagge, F. T.	Lyman, J.
Freeman, S. G.	Martin, A. R.
Gray, F. J.	Rudge, J. E.
Grove, W. R.	Smith, C.
Lattey, T.	Turner, A. N.

### King's College.

Cann, T. M.	Phillips, A.
Deane, H. W.	Shepherd, C. D.
Hopton, H. C.	Teale, J. W. B.A.Oxon
Leaman, A. B.	Watmough, W.

### St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Budlin, C. H.	Hayward, F. F.
Evaus, W. L.	Hughes, D. W.
Farwell, R.	Jenner, W.
Haycock, G.	Waghorn, F.

### Leeds School of Medicine.

Clarkson, F. R.	Murgatroyd, T.
Conolly, M. A.	Oglesby, R. P.
Ellerton, J.	Wadsworth, A.
Lee, M.	Wright, C. J.

### Manchester School of Medicine.

Coles, R. W.	Patrick, S. A.
Dawson, E.	Rushton, J. L.
Mann, J. D.	

### University College.

Ballard, W. W.	Potter, J. B.
Fox, E. L. H.	Warn, R. T.
Gargory, C.	

### Middlesex Hospital.

Mason, J. W.	Purnell, R.
Osbaldeston, L. F.	Welby, W. M. H.
Probyn, J. S.	

### Newcastle School of Medicine.

Dalglish, J.	Husband, E.
Hawthorn, J.	Newton, H. W.

### London Hospital.

Ellison, S. K.	Taylor, C.
Galbraith, J.	

### Guy's Hospital.

Mann, A. G. C.	Thomas, G. J.
Procter, P.	

### St. Mary's Hospital.

Gardner, J. F. W.	Rayner, W.
Lynch, J. R.	

### Charing Cross Hospital.

Cooke, G. R.	Morgan, N. J.
Delamotte, G. C.	

### Liverpool School of Medicine.

Bowen, J. A.	Hanks, W.
Deck, J. F.	

### St. Thomas's Hospital.

Deck, J. F.	Westminster Hospital.
	Loug, A.

### Aberdeen School of Medicine.

Dudley, E.	Dublin School of Medicine.
	Barker, E. R.

The following gentlemen were admitted MEMBERS of the College on April 30th:—

Appleyard, James, Cleethorpes, near Grimsby, Lincolnshire  
 Beddard, James, Dudley, Worcestershire  
 Beg, The Rev. Wazer, Poona, near Bombay  
 De Smidt, John, Cape of Good Hope  
 Eddowes, William  
 Ellery, Richard, St. Stephen's-by-Saltash, Cornwall  
 Greene, Frederick William, Upton Park, Slough  
 Greene, James Augustine, M.D., Calcutta  
 Grenfell, Henry, St. Just, Cornwall  
 Hodson, Thomas, Cocking, Sussex  
 Hutchings, Henry Ebenezer, Dorchester  
 Jones, Morris, Aberystwith  
 Kidd, Henry Alexander, M.D., Calcutta

Lawrence, Frederick George, Cambridge  
 Peel, Robert, Durham  
 Rawson, Edwin, Kirkstall, near Leeds  
 Roper, Arthur, Aylsham, Norfolk  
 Sealy, George John, Marazion, near Penzance

The following gentlemen were admitted on May 1:—

Axham, Frederick William, Bideford, Devon  
 Brumwell, John Robert, Burnley, Lancashire  
 Caudle, Adolphus William Wisden, Henfield, Sussex  
 Clarke, Edward Griffith, Pontardulais, Llanelly, Carmarthen  
 Dunlop, Robert, Drumhead, Dumbartonshire  
 Greaves, Charles Henry, Great Easton, Leicestershire  
 Griffiths, William Hughes, Llangelor, Carmarthen  
 Haswell, Narcis Richard, Falmouth  
 Holmsted, Thomas, Bocking, Essex  
 Holt, George C., Biddulph, Staffordshire  
 Jones, Edward, Dolgelly, Merionethshire  
 Leeds, Edward, B.A.Oxon., Stretford, Manchester  
 Martin, Henry Arthur, St. Austell, Cornwall  
 Minns, Pembroke R. J. B., Nassau, New Providence  
 Pocock, Crawford John, Brighton  
 Pole, Alexander, Shetland  
 Soper, William, Clapham Road  
 Stamper, James Fenton, Haverfordwest  
 Tanner, Robert, Ledbury, Herefordshire

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On Thursday, April 25th, the following licentiates were admitted:—

A'Beckett, W. G., Melbourne  
 France, W. H., Sheffield  
 Greenwell, B., St. John's Wood  
 Hill, J. D., Cranoe, near Market Harborough  
 Hutchinson, J., Catterick  
 Kent, O. J., Hampton, Middlesex  
 Knapp, J., Clifton  
 Rawson, E., Wilsden, near Leeds  
 Spencer, W. H., Preston  
 Thomas, D. B., Newcastle Emlyn  
 Tucker, A. C., Sheepwash  
 Watson, W., Sedburgh  
 Willett, J., Great Bedworth  
 Wright, A., Mountsorrel

#### APPOINTMENTS.

STRANGE, William, M.D., elected Physician to the Worcester Infirmary, in the room of Dr. Davis.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. The following Examiners were appointed by the Senate on April 24th:—

MILLER, W. A., M.D., F.R.S.	} Examiners in Chemistry.
WILLIAMSON, A. W., Ph.D., F.R.S.	
HOOKER, J. D., M.D.	} Examiners in Botany and Vegetable Physiology.
LINDLEY, John, Ph.D., F.R.S.	
JENNER, W., M.D.	} Examiners in Medicine.
TWEEDIE, A., M.D., F.R.S.	
CURLING, T. B., Esq., F.R.S.	} Examiners in Surgery.
FERGUSON, W., Esq., F.R.S.	
REDFERN, P., M.D.	} Examiners in Anatomy and Physiology.
SHARPEY, W., M.D., F.R.S.	
BUSK, George, Esq., F.R.S.	} Exams. in Physiology, Comparative Anatomy, and Zoology.
HUXLEY, T. H., Esq., F.R.S.	
SMITH, W. Tyler, M.D.	} Examiners in Midwifery.
WEST, C., M.D.	
GARROD, A. B., M.D., F.R.S.	} Examiners in Materia Medica.
REES, G. O., M.D., F.R.S.	

ROYAL NAVY. The following appointments have been made:—

MULCAHY, Edward, Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *H'ge*.  
 NICHILL, John, Esq., Surgeon, to the *Hastings*.

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

BROWNE, W., M.D., to be Surgeon 1st Northumberland R.V.  
 LOWNDS, J. R., Esq., to be Assist.-Surg. 1st Northumberland R.V.  
 LAWRENCE, L. A., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon Hampshire Militia Infantry  
 PALMER, F. W., M.D., to be Surgeon 3rd City of London R.V.  
 SUTHERLIN, H., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 20th Middlesex R.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

FOSTER, T. B., Esq., 13th Devon A.V.  
 REEVE, J. F., M.D., 6th Tower Hamlets R.V.  
 SAYILLE, W., Esq., 19th West Riding R.V.  
 TODD, R., M.D., 9th Fife A.V.  
 UTERMARCK, G., Esq., 2nd Administrative Battalion, 19th Company, Staffordshire R.V.

#### DEATHS.

CLARK, John, M.D., Deputy Inspector of Army Hospitals, aged 54, on April 27.  
 COUCH, Wm. O., Esq., Surgeon, at Islington, aged 37, on April 24.

FITZGERALD. On April 18th, at Cheltenham, aged 55, Ellen L., widow of the late John F. Fitzgerald, M.D., of Carrick-on-Suir.  
 GIBSON. On April 28th, at 3, Spring Place, Bagnigge Wells Road, aged 4, Elizabeth B., eldest child of J. B. Gibson, Esq., Surgeon.  
 KILVERT, John, Esq., Surgeon, at Bath, aged 63, on April 28.  
 MANLEY. On April 27th, at Tyldesley, near Manchester, aged 80, Eliza, eldest daughter of \*W. E. Mauley, Esq., Surgeon.  
 MARTIN. On April 27, at Brighton, Lucy Jane, youngest daughter of the late \*Peter J. Martin, Esq., Pulborough.  
 PORTER, William H., Esq., Surgeon, in Dublin, on April 27.  
 \*PROBART, F. G., M.D., of Bury St. Edmunds, aged 79, on April 25.  
 WILLIAMS, John W., Esq., Surgeon, at Duffield, Derbyshire, aged 37, on April 23.

DR. HENRY BENNET. We are glad to hear that Dr. Henry Bennet, after spending two winters in Italy, is enabled to resume his practice in town.

THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT. Out of three hundred and sixty-two deputies in the Chamber of Representatives at Turin, twenty-five are physicians, and one hundred and one advocates.

SEIZURE OF UNSOUND MEAT. Dr. Letheby, in his quarterly report of the health of the City, states that, in the course of the past quarter, twenty-five tons and a quarter of meat, unfit for human food, have been seized by the officers of the City of London.

THE INDIAN ARMY SANITARY COMMISSION. The Royal Commission on the sanitary state of the army in India held a meeting at the War-office on Saturday last. The following commissioners were present:—Lord Herbert, Sir Proby Cautley, Sir Ranald Martin, Colonel Greathed, Dr. Gibson, Dr. Sutherland, and Dr. Farr.

RANK OF ARMY MEDICAL OFFICERS. A Royal Warrant has been issued to the effect that, after March 28th, the staff or regimental assistant-surgeon who may be promoted to the rank of staff or regimental surgeon, shall rank as majors, but juniors of that rank; and that staff or regimental surgeons who were commissioned as such before that date shall continue to rank as majors according to the date of their commissions.

SUICIDE BY A SURGEON. Mr. Noah Fox, one of the medical officers of the Nottingham Union Workhouse, on April 26th, committed suicide by taking a large dose of opium. Deceased had for some time past been much addicted to drinking, which no doubt had affected his mind. An inquest was held yesterday on the unfortunate gentleman's body, when a verdict in accordance with the circumstances of the case was returned.

DEGREE OF MASTER IN SURGERY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE. A statute formed by the Commissioners on Oct. 23rd, 1860, concerning the mode of proceeding to the Degree of Master in Surgery in the University of Cambridge, was approved by Her Majesty in council on April 16th. The Master in Surgery will acquire the same status and privileges in the university as a Master of Arts. The candidates for the degree must reside nine terms and conform to the regulations for the study of arts and surgery which may be made, from time to time, by the university. The regulations will probably be issued shortly.

THE EGYPTIAN FEVER AGAIN. Letters from Alexandria, dated April 11th, announce the arrival on the 7th inst. of the Egyptian frigate *Voyageur de la Mer* after a fine run of seventy-four hours from Malta, and that eleven of her crew were landed in hospital the same day suffering from the disease which has already been described. Of the thirteen Europeans who embarked at Liverpool only one person, the first engineer, has escaped being attacked by this singular epidemic. The English medical officer attached to the Egyptian Government considers it to be gastric fever, which when neglected may prove of a malignant nature.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF IRELAND. The Summer Session of medical study for the present year was inaugurated on the 15th inst. by Dr. Macnamara,

F.R.C.S.I., Professor of Materia Medica to the College, who delivered the introductory address. The theatre of the college was crowded with students from the lower to the upper seats, and the space below in the vicinity of the lecture table was occupied by a large body of eminent members of the medical profession, including several Fellows and Members of the college, also a number of non-medical visitors. Dr. Ireland, of Stephen's Green, is a candidate for the office of Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.

**SANITARY STATISTICS OF THE CITY.** In the city of London during the winter quarter there has been a large increase in the number of deaths, and a falling-off in the number of births, the former having advanced from an average of 840 in the quarter to 876, and the latter having declined from 926 to 863; the deaths, therefore being in excess of the births. In all England the mortality for the winter quarter is at the yearly rate of about 26.6 per 1000 of the population, and in the chief towns of England it is 26.4; whereas in the whole City it has amounted to 27, and in some districts has reached to 33. The chief causes of this large increase have been the cold and damp of the season. The influence of cold and wet in augmenting the death-rate is strikingly evidenced by the fact that when the temperature of the air was below the freezing point, and the humidity of the atmosphere was over 90 per cent. of saturation, the mortality was nearly doubled.

**ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS, EARLSWOOD.** On April 26th the annual meeting of this institution was held at the London Tavern, Sheriff Abbiss expressed his hope that before long they would be able to call the splendid building at Earlswood, worth £60,000, their own property. At present there was a mortgage upon the property of £9,000. Last year they had paid off £3,000, and if their friends continued to be as generous as they had been, in two years they would be out of debt. The report stated that the number of inmates was 336, and, with the officers of the institution, upwards of 400. The funds had been generously aided by bequests during the year amounting to £3,010. The medical report, read by Dr. Down, bore most favourable testimony to the sanitary condition of the inmates, and the beneficial effects of the workshops. A vote of thanks was given to Drs. Conolly and Reed for their gratuitous services.

**VIENNESE MEDICAL STUDENTS IN TROUBLE.** Some students are still in custody for taking a share in the demonstrations against his Eminence the Cardinal-Archbishop of Vienna. The day before yesterday Dr. Oppolzer, one of the most renowned physicians in Austria, went in his capacity of Rector Magnificus of the University to request the Minister of State to give orders that the students who were "missing" should be liberated. While pleading the cause of the young men Dr. Oppolzer said that he spoke in the name of the "Studentenschaft," a word which indicated that the students formed a corporate body. On hearing it, M. von Schmerling observed that it could only be a question of individual students, as no "Studentenschaften" existed in Austria. He added, that he was willing to make due allowance for the exuberant spirits of youth, but would take care that they did not play such mad tricks as they did in 1848. (*Times*.)

**SIR JOHN McNEILL.** A public meeting of the University of Edinburgh was held on April 22nd, for the purpose of conferring degrees in laws and arts. Sir David Brewster, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, presided. Professor Swinton presented to the Vice-Chancellor the Right Hon. Sir John McNeill to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LL.D.). In presenting Sir John McNeill, he said that, having graduated in medicine at the University of Edinburgh at the early age of nineteen, he sought in the East a field for his pro-

fessional attainments, but ultimately exchanged the practice of the physician's art for the diplomatic service of the State; and during long years of perilous adventure, fitly crowned by his appointment as British Envoy at the Court of Persia, his zeal, ability, and discretion, had gained the confidence of the country and the special favour of the Crown. Of the fidelity with which he had since brought his administrative talents to the discharge of important duties at home, all were aware, and history would tell of the disinterested devotion to the call of duty with which he undertook a mission to the camp before Sebastopol, and lent the aid of his tried wisdom and extensive experience in retrieving the disasters of a suffering army and restoring the confidence of an anxious nation.

**BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES IN 1860.** The Registrar-General for England has issued his annual tables of the number of births, deaths, and marriages in 1860. The number of marriages (170,305) is larger than in any previous year; the nearest approach to it was in 1859, when the number was 167,723. The births in 1860 (683,440) were fewer by 6441 than in 1859, but that is the only year in which they were exceeded; the deaths (422,472) were happily less by 18,777 than in 1859, and less also than in 1858, 1855, or 1854. Allowing for the estimated increase of population, the births in 1860 were slightly above the average rate of the preceding ten years; the marriages were more above it, and the deaths were still more below it: all movements in the right direction. As usual, the first half of the year saw the greatest number of births, about ten per cent. more than the last half; and the deaths in the first moiety were greater than in the last by the large ratio of twenty-three per cent. The last quarter was, as usual, the marrying season; there were 50,702 marriages, and only 35,198 in the first quarter. Lincolnshire is always a notable exception to this last rule; there the spring quarter is the chief time for marriage.

**ASSISTANT-SURGEONS IN THE ARMY.** In the House of Commons, on April 26th, Lord Burghley asked the Under Secretary for War why a large number of staff assistant-surgeons had been placed upon half-pay; and how long it was probable that the state of half-pay, as regarded those officers, would be continued? It was a great hardship that these officers, just entering their profession, should be suddenly put upon half-pay, thereby depriving them of the chance of that promotion to which they would ultimately be entitled.—Colonel Lindsay, on the part of Colonel North, called the attention of the house to the reduction of the second assistant-surgeons of the regiments of the line.—Mr. Baring said that he had intended to state the other night that the second assistant-surgeons of the battalion of the Guards would not be taken away, and that no second assistant-surgeons in the regiments of the line would be placed on half-pay. It was thought, however, that second assistant-surgeons in the regiments at home were no longer necessary. In the opinion of Lord Herbert a second assistant surgeon to regiments at home was no longer required, and it was obvious that any increase in the number of assistant-surgeons would be rather prejudicial to the prospects of promotion for members of the service.

**UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.** At the last meeting of the Edinburgh University, sixty-two young gentlemen offered themselves for the graduation in arts, the largest number of candidates for degree that have offered themselves for a century and a half. Twenty-eight took the degree of Master of Arts, and thirty-four the degree of Bachelor. They were addressed by Professor Frazer, who adverted to the circumstance that this was a revival of the scenes that took place in the early history of the university, when from fifty to a hundred graduates were often received in a single year, when the number of stu-

dents was less than a half of what it now was. In the eighteenth century and up to the passing of the recent Act, the privilege of graduation almost ceased to be sought after, owing, no doubt, to the want of that self-governing power which the Scottish universities had since secured, and owing to the circumstance that hitherto graduation possessed no privileges; whereas, now the graduates were organised in a body as a general council to consult on the affairs of the university, and hoped soon to obtain the further privilege of a representative in Parliament, which the Scotch universities could no longer remain destitute of if this part of the United Kingdom was to have its share in the intellectual influence which the universities possessed in the legislature.

**THE DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON.** The first anniversary of this institution was celebrated by a public dinner on the 25th ult., at which about one hundred and thirty gentlemen—including the President of the College of Physicians, Mr. A. B. Beresford Hope, and other eminent persons distinguished in the dental profession, and supporters of the hospital—sat down, under the presidency of Professor Owen. The chairman in proposing the toast of the evening, "Success to the Dental Hospital of London," said the progress in anatomical investigation in dental surgery, after the work of Hunter making known the organisation of the teeth and its adaptation, was most important, and there could be no doubt of the usefulness of an institution that would afford application for that knowledge and experience that had been the issue of the advances of medicine and surgery. They had had hospitals established for nearly all sorts of human maladies, but there were very few maladies that left so vivid an impression of their sufferings as those of the teeth. It had been said that there never was a philosopher that could bear the toothache patiently; and although the maladies of the teeth might seem to be small things, yet in the aggregate they were very important. The medical report of their hospital, showing the great amount of relief of suffering, was plain and unmistakable, and he was sure the public only wanted to know how much good the institution did in order to give the requisite support. The organisation of the institution was such as to afford the greatest experience, and clearly showed how widely the profession extended over the land through the application of the principles of what they knew of the anatomy of the teeth. He only wished what he and they knew about it should be known throughout the metropolis, at least. He felt more heartfelt gratification and pleasure in the success of this institution than in many kindred institutions that he knew of. The affair was a complete success.

**THE LATE MR. PORTER OF DUBLIN.** W. H. Porter entered as one of the earliest Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, in November 1817. In 1821, he published in the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions* his first essay, a Successful Case of Cynanche Maligna, with Tracheotomy; and shortly afterwards, in 1826, his work on the *Larynx and Trachea*. In 1830, he published Cases of Ligature of Subclavian and Right Carotid, and a Case of Tracheotomy, in the *Dublin Hospitals Reports*; and from 1832 to 1834, Cases of Axillary and Subclavian and Internal Aneurisms, Memoir on Amputation in spreading Gangrene, and Cases in the Meath Hospital, all in the *Dublin Journal of Medical Science*. His contributions to the *Cyclopædia of Anatomy* were—three articles on the Morbid Anatomy and Pathology of the Arteries, of Bone, and of the Larynx; and an Essay on the Anatomy of Hernia. Observations of Fractures of the Neck of the Femur, Contributions to Surgical Pathology, and a Memoir on the Radical Cure of Hydrocele, also appeared in the *Dublin Journal of Medical Science*. In the *Dublin Medical Press* have

appeared his Lectures on Surgery and on Syphilis and its Treatment by Mercury, and on Calculus in the Bladder, and his Observations on the Treatment of Aneurism. The foregoing are the most important of his writings, though not the only ones. Mr. Porter was elected Surgeon to the Meath Hospital in November 1819, in the place of Mr. Solomon Richards, and continued to hold the appointment till the day of his death, a period of nearly forty-two years, respected by his colleagues, and beloved by his pupils. In October 1836, he succeeded Mr. Abraham Colles as Professor of Surgery in the School of the Royal College of Surgeons; and it is but a few months since he delivered his last lecture in that school. He has held for very many years an honourable position on the Council of the College, and, on the death of the late Dr. Williams, was elected the Representative of that body on the General Medical Council. His death was altogether unexpected, his health having almost entirely recovered from a severe attack of bronchitis and a fracture of his thigh-bone. He had complained on Saturday last of slight pains in his chest, which were not, however, considered of any importance. He retired to bed on that evening in his usual health, and was found dead in his bed the next morning. (Abridged from *Dublin Med. Press*.)

## Varieties.

**A NEW CURE FOR AN INCURABLE AFFECTION.** A remarkable discovery has been made in Germany by a physiologist—the exact cause of "sea-sickness." The "up and down" tension of the muscles on a particular valve of the stomach while an animal is under chloroform, is now shown in lectures to bring on sickness in such animals at once. The same occurs in a rough sea when a vessel heaves up and down. Some remedies, chiefly to steady the muscles, such as a particular form of bandage to be worn at sea, a combination of champagne and other remedies to drink, have been referred to as stopping "sea-sickness" in an instant.

**EFFECTS OF PAINTING SHIPS WITH RED LEAD.** M. Jouvin, apothecary in the French navy, has lately made a communication to the Academy of Sciences on the evils of painting iron ships with red lead. The observations of this gentleman were directed to the *Guienne*, which had made three voyages. He found a number of what he calls pustules on that portion of the vessel which had been submerged; in opening these, which were very thin, he discovered little cavities filled with a liquid containing chloride of iron, and having their sides covered with crystals of lead. The effect was evidently due to the salt water, as there were no such pustules on the upper part of the ship.

**THE PHARMACY SCHOOL IN PARIS.** There are ten professors attached to the School of Pharmacy, who lecture on pharmacy, chemistry, natural history, and botany. No apothecary can practise until he has passed an examination here. It contains a cabinet of specimens of all kinds of drugs, with a select mineralogical collection, also a small but select library. Attached to it is a botanical garden, which was the first ever established in France, and dates back as far as 1580. The medicinal plants that will bear the climate are here cultivated and classified. It will be *apropos* to add here, that, at the Jardin des Plantes, there is a botanical gallery, which contains, among other interesting objects, a collection of drugs.

**ESQUIMAUX FOOD.** In the autumn, the berries of the *Empetrum nigrum*, *Vaccinium uliginosum*, and *Vitisidea*, *Rubus chamaemorus* and *arcticus*, and of a few other arctic fruit-bearing plants, are eaten, and the half-

digested lichens in the paunch of the rein-deer are considered to be a treat; but in other seasons, this people never tastes vegetables; and even in summer, animal food is alone deemed essential. Carbon is supplied to the system by the use of much oil and fat in the diet; and draughts of warm blood from a newly-killed animal are considered as contributing greatly to preserve the hunter in health. No part of the entrails is rejected as unfit for food; little cleanliness is shown in the preparation of the intestines, and when they are rendered crisp by frost, they are eaten as delicacies, without further cooking. On parts of the coast where whales are common, August and September are devoted to the pursuit of these animals, deer-hunting being also attended to at intervals. The killing of a right whale or of a sufficient number of the *killeluak* (*Beluga albicans*) secures winter feasts and abundance of oil for the lamps of a whole village, and there is great rejoicing. On the return of light, the winter-houses are abandoned for the seal-hunt on the ice, sooner or later, according to the state of the larder. (*Sir J. Richardson.*)

RELATIVE PROPORTIONS OF PROFESSIONS. "Of the professions in England and Wales (we need say nothing about their distribution), it appeared at the last census that one man in a hundred and eighty was a minister of religion; schoolmasters were in almost the same proportion; but there were not two-thirds of the number of medical practitioners, and of these only one man in two thousand five hundred was a physician. The artist, reckoning together painter and sculptor, proved to be one man in a thousand, or one woman in ten thousand. One man in five thousand was an editor or a journalist; one man in ten thousand was an author. In all England and Wales the whole number of women returned ten years ago as engaged in literature—a number yielding no appreciable proportion on the entire population—was but one hundred and nine."

HOW DOES A COW RISE FROM THE GROUND? Nothing was too minute to escape the observant eye of John Hunter; and some of the evidences of the close scrutiny with which he surveyed the natural world would evoke a smile, even in the countenance of the serious reader. Take, for example, his observations upon the "rising of animals":—"All the ruminating class of animals, I believe, when they rise raise their hind parts, and at the same time get upon their fore knees; this is the first step. Then they raise their hind parts entirely upon their hind feet; then the fore feet are raised, but one before the other. When they lie down, they first get upon the knees of the fore legs; then the hind parts fall down; and then the fore legs are folded in under the body of the animal. A horse when he rises first raises his anterior parts upon his fore feet, the fore legs being then very oblique, and the feet under his head; the hind legs are brought alongside his belly, and the feet are under him. He then raises at once the hind parts, in which action the fore legs are brought erect by the whole body being brought forwards upon the feet." There are few, we should think, that have not seen a cow raise herself in the field, or a horse in the stable; but how many are there who have noticed the difference between the modes in which the two animals perform this act?

CHINESE CIVILISATION. A missionary, a medical practitioner and a layman, Mr. Lockhart, was long and usefully employed in China. His opportunities were good; his mastery of the healing art gained him friends among the rich and poor; and having fallen upon pleasant ways in the Flowery Land, his book is amiably tinged with gratitude. The Chinese, he avers, notwithstanding the new opinion of them engendered of late years in Europe, are an educated people; the schoolmaster is in every village; but few of the women, he admits, are able to read. One proof of civilisation he adduces, which

the least enthusiastic of Sinologists may appreciate—the holder of the degree known as *Sew-tsae*, or Adorned Talent, is exempt from corporal punishment. Great, too, are the dignities to be derived from *The Forest of Pencils*. Judging by results, we are not yet persuaded that the intellect of China stands at a very high level; but Mr. Lockhart ought to be a competent witness. He has not thrown his reminiscences into a narrative form, but has more judiciously grouped them in a series of synoptical chapters, the first of which contains notices of benevolent institutions, founding hospitals, prisons, criminals, and punishments, the last being practical commentaries upon the civilisation so highly vaunted. Industrially, no doubt, the Chinese are in advance of most Asiatic nations; but, even in this respect, do they exhibit any progress? Mr. Lockhart minutely describes their processes of steaming bread, oil-making, varnishing, metal-casting, lacquering, ivory-carving, and we seem to be reading a copy from books of immemorial date. As to the sciences, "medicine has not been studied to any purpose," and there is, consequently, a wide field open to medical missionaries, who, the writer thinks, should almost invariably be laymen. (*Athenæum.*)

CHINESE MEDICINE. Anatomy, says Mr. Lockhart, is totally interdicted both by law and public opinion in China. Any man, however, may practise medicine, and thousands do so, with the slender knowledge which books afford, or by the exercise of their own common sense, which proves a safer guide, and brings persons occasionally into notoriety, and also a good income. In these books, which are based upon principles adopted two or three thousand years ago, the important doctrine of the circulation of the blood is not only not understood, but preposterously confused and erroneous. Their theory of the pulse proves this to a demonstration. There is no distinction between arteries and veins—no knowledge of the heart's proper function, nor of the necessary changes the blood undergoes in the lungs and capillary system. The Chinese know nothing of the nervous system, its functions and diseases. They have names for the brain and spinal marrow, but nothing more. They have a pulse for every organ but the brain. The true position, forms and uses of the viscera are not understood. They profess to be so, but a glance at their drawings discovers the most glaring errors. There is no lack of books and observations on the functions of the body; for everything, even the most inscrutable and mysterious, is explained by the Yin and the Yang, the hot and the cold, the dry and the moist, the superior and the inferior influences! Almost every symptom is a disease, and every prescription (of which the books contain thousands) is for every imaginable symptom, indicating a miserably small amount of acquaintance with the nature and the causes of disease.

TITLES AMONG MEDICAL MEN. "The medical profession," writes an American physician travelling in Spain, "seems not to be much esteemed, probably in part because it has not been worthy of it, and in part from the old ideas that the army and the church are the only respectable ways for making money. Honours are now, however, given to physicians; one of the four who attend the Queen has been made a marquis, and I have no doubt that, in a few years, the profession will take the stand it ought to occupy. I do not know what idea the title of Marquis, given to a physician, will have upon your readers; but here it is looked upon very much as that of LL.D. is in our country, so common as not to be much esteemed, and sometimes to be refused, by those who either have no money to support the dignity, or, as is the case again with the American title, by those who think they will be admired and talked about more by refusing than accepting. In the latter category is the great banker, Salamanca, who declined the title of Count,

and in the former that of a gentleman formerly minister at Washington, who declines that of Marquis. Of course those who are in possession of ancient titles value them very much, and *such* titles are not in the above category at all. In England, new titles are more valued because more sparingly given, and the medical profession is anxiously waiting for some one of their number to be elevated to the peerage. This much-desired event has been postponed, and perhaps an inseparable obstacle placed in its way by a bon mot of George IV., who declined to make a baron of a certain doctor lest the ladies should say to him, 'Good Lord, deliver us.' So they have to be content with being knights and baronets, of which there are abundant instances."

STATISTICS OF INSANITY IN EUROPE. According to the most recent statistics, there is one insane person in every 1,200 of the population, in the different states of Germany. In France, a gross number, (according to some,) of 18,350, and, (according to others,) of from 30,000 to 32,000 lunatics, will yield, respectively, one insane person in 1,900, and one in 1,000. But still, in this estimate, there should be a division made between the smaller towns and those great centres of commercial industry where the relative proportion is always greater than in agricultural districts. In England, the number of insane is greater than in France, and attains in Scotland the high ratio of one in 513. The statistics, indeed, of Dr. Mario Rubio, framed in 1848, put the North British figure at one in 417. The mean average of his calculation will be found to be one in 446 in the canton of Geneva, one in 550 in Norway, one in 816 in Belgium, one in 700 in England, one in 1,223 in Holland, one in 1,667 in Spain, one in 1,773 in France, (there being about 21,000 insane,) one in 2,125 in Ireland, one in 3,690 in Italy, one in 5,818 in all the Piedmontese possessions. For Russia, the average is still lower. In these statistics, where France, we think, should figure at a higher average, we meet with considerable and hitherto unexplained disproportions; since Scotland is rated at one in 417, whilst Piedmont only attains the level of one in 5,818. It is evident, that amongst the insane of the latter country are not included those degenerate beings termed *cretins*, whose terrible affliction is dependent upon the geological structure of the soil, and who people in great numbers the valleys of Martigny and Aosta, and the mountainous districts of the Alps. The same anomaly shows itself in various departments of France; since, if we estimate its average by the lunatics in the asylums of Saint-Yon and Quatre-Mares, the proportion for the Seine-Inférieure will be as one to 650 or 700 of the inhabitants. (*Morel's Traité des Maladies Mentales.*)

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN MADRID. In the School of Medicine of Madrid there are nearly seven hundred students. Six or seven years study are, however, required, so that only sixty or seventy graduate each year. The museum of the college contains a very interesting specimen of transposition of the viscera—the liver being on the left side and the stomach and intestines turned around to correspond, the cæcum on the left and the sigmoid flexure on the right side. A skeleton of a giant, seven feet and eleven inches high, was pointed out to me. The dissecting room is very fine, having very high ceilings, and not being at the top of the house, as the case with those at home. In the laboratory, I saw a very neat and simple apparatus for detecting blood-stains by hypochlorous acid, which will bleach everything else. Here, from all parts are sent cases of poisoning. In the college are twenty-four professors and eight assistant professors. There is a small hospital in the building itself; but in the building next to it, and which indeed opens into it, is situated the great General Hospital, containing twelve hundred beds. It is built on the four sides of a court, and is three stories high. A ward on

one side, into which I went, contained seventy beds, and was only separated by a partial partition from another of equal size, which ran parallel to it, and had windows opening on the street instead of on the courtyard, as was the case with the other. I hardly knew whether to call it one ward of one hundred and forty beds, or two, each of seventy. I am informed that there are, at least, two hospitals in Europe larger than this—one at Brussels, and one at Milan, which contains thirty-two hundred beds. In the School of Medicine, I saw the room where degrees are conferred. Over the chief chair is a portrait of Isabel II, as indeed it is in every similar room which I have been in. (*Med. and Surg. Rep.*)

DR. PARKES ON THE ACTION OF ALCOHOL. "Whatever may be the difficulties, at present, of discussing this most important subject in the case of healthy persons, there can be no doubt that what is known of the action of these substances assists us very much in using them in disease. The nervous system is stimulated, and metamorphosis lessened, by coffee, and slightly by tea; and in exhausting diseases these effects are most useful. I presume that, while sugar, starch, etc., are available, it can seldom be necessary to employ alcohol as a factor of heat; this object can be obtained by more easy and more certain methods. The physician, as I take it, uses alcohol for two great purposes—as a direct stimulus to the weakened stomach, and as a stimulant of the nervous system, and, through it, of the failing heart. Now, in our choice of alcoholic fluids, we must be guided, it appears to me, by the consideration of how far it is wished, at the same time, to check or to increase elimination. For example, in the last stages of fever, when the body has wasted almost to extremity, and when, as the controlling power of the nervous system is lost, too great disintegration may still go on, even in the emaciated tissues, pure alcohol, which stimulates the heart's action, and yet impedes metamorphosis, must be employed; while, in other cases, in which, while the nervous system and the heart must be stimulated, it is desired not to check excretion (as during the absorption of exudations), the lighter wines, or the combination of spirit with alkaline salts, should be chosen. In the vast class of chronic complaints dependent on lesions of nutrition, obstinate congestions, and continued parenchymatous inflammation, and in which, as a rule, digestion is weak and tissue-change is lessened, the same rules hold good; and, by a judicious combination of means, we may obtain from these substances the effects we desire from them, and can counteract and nullify the influences which should be avoided."

THE RED SEA. A report was lately presented to the Academy of Sciences, on a paper sent in some time ago by M. Courbon, on the results obtained by him during an expedition sent to the Red Sea for scientific purposes by the Emperor of the French. M. St. Claire Deville, who was the reporter for the geological part, stated that M. Courbon had minutely examined many parts of both coasts of the Red Sea, had also crossed the Egyptian Desert between Cosseir and the ruins of Thebes, and even penetrated to the neighbourhood of Haleb, in Abyssinia. Of this country, M. Courbon has made a geological map, and, moreover, given a minute description of the configuration of the soil at Jeddah, the island of Desseh, and the bay of Adulis, the island of Doomairah, etc. At Edd, he found an immense basaltic wall built by nature, the whole country being of volcanic formation. The island of Perim is trachytic; the culminating points of the island reach an elevation of 228 feet, and prove that the island itself is the result of a volcanic eruption under the sea. The lava had first raised up the large bank of madreporas which covered the bottom, and had then forced its way through the interstices, and become visible over the water. This volcano, the vast crater of which embraced



the bay of Perim, in course of time covered the new island with mud, ashes, trachytic blocks, etc., and then became extinguished. M. Valenciennes, who reported on the zoological part, noticed among the specimens brought by M. Courbon a new species of the genus *gymnodactylus*. It is a Saurian, to which M. Valenciennes has given the name of *gymnocephalus*. There were also two species of fish, the *cyprinodon lunatus* and *cyprinodon dispar*, which M. Courbon had fished in a lake near Massuah, the waters of which marked as much as 111° Fahrenheit. This was the first instance on record of *cyprinodons* living in such warm water. A third kind of fish, inhabiting the rivers of Abyssinia, quite unknown, and belonging to a genus of which a single species only has as yet been met with in Java, M. Valenciennes has called *balitora pusilla*. M. Brogniart, the reporter on the botanical part, stated that M. Courbon had presented his valuable herbarium to the Museum of Natural History, and mentioned several new species or varieties of plants brought home by the enterprising traveller.

### 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. Epidemiological, 8 P.M.: Dr. Smart, "On the Diseases of Hong Kong and the Canton River Station."—Entomological, 8 P.M.—Odontological, 8 P.M.  
TUESDAY. Pathological, 8:30 P.M.—Photographic.  
WEDNESDAY. North London Medical, 8 P.M.—Geological.—Microscopical.—Royal Society of Literature.—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.  
THURSDAY. Antiquarian.  
FRIDAY. Astronomical, 8 P.M.—Royal Institution.  
SATURDAY. Asiatic (Anniversary).—Royal Botanical.

### POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—APRIL 27TH, 1861.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

		Births.	Deaths.
During week.....	{ Boys.. 930 } Girls.. 928 }	1858	1182
Average of corresponding weeks 1851-60 .....		1680	1234

**Barometer:**  
Highest (Sat.) 29.960; lowest (Tu.) 29.733; mean 29.840.

**Thermometer:**  
Highest in sun—extremes (Mon.) 95 degs.; (Sat.) 42 degs.  
In shade—highest (Th.) 61.3 degrees; lowest (Sun.) 26.8 degrees.  
Mean—44.3 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.—3.2 degs.  
Range—during week, 34.5 degrees; mean daily, 19.9 degrees.  
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 80.  
Mean direction of wind, N.E.—Rain in inches, 0.52.

### 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.

**BENZOATED OXIDE OF ZINC OINTMENT.**—MR. TASKER writes:—"A benzoated oxide of zinc ointment was strongly recommended as an application in eczema infantile by Mr. Erasmus Wilson, in a paper which he read before the Association in 1856. No formula was then given for this ointment; neither have I anywhere seen any form for its preparation. I shall feel greatly obliged, and it is very probable that many other members will be equally so, if you can give us in the JOURNAL the formula for this highly eulogised unguent."

**A CHARITABLE DINNER-INVITATION.**—SIR: At the present time bland invitations to charitable dinners are more than usually abundant; but I have been surprised and amused at the easy familiarity with which I am invited, in a printed circular, by a gentleman who is a total stranger to me, to do him "the personal favour" to attend a dinner for a medical charity, that, forsooth, "he may have the pleasure of introducing me" to the newly elected president, Lord —. In America, where the aristocracy are said to be at a premium, such an attraction may be all very well; but the gentleman in question will forgive me, if I say that in England such an invitation is in doubtful taste.

April 25th, 1861.

F.R.C.S.

### 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, May 1861.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. THOMAS SKINNER; Dr. GRAILY HEWITT; Mr. G. LAWSON; Mr. PAGET; Mr. W. E. MANLEY; Mr. R. GRIFFIN; Mr. JOSEPH HINTON; Mr. J. MORLEY; Mr. T. TAPLIN; Dr. LUCE; Dr. WATERS; Mr. T. M. STONE; Mr. R. S. FOWLER; Dr. DAVEY; and Mr. WILDBORE.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. Lectures on the Diagnosis and Treatment of the Principal Forms of Paralysis of the Lower Extremities. By C. E. BROWN-SQUARD, M.D., F.R.S. London: 1861.
2. Clinical Hospital, Fourth Sanitary Report. By J. WHITEHEAD, M.D. Manchester: 1861.
3. Analytical Tables for the Use of Students of Practical Chemistry. By MURRAY THOMSON, M.D., F.C.S. Edinburgh: 1861.
4. The Modern Pathology and Treatment of Venereal Diseases. By P. H. WATSON, M.D. Edinburgh and London: 1861.
5. The Bath Mineral Waters in Cases of Rheumatism, Sciatica, Gout, etc. By R. W. FALCONER, M.D. London and Bath: 1861.

### ADVERTISEMENTS.

DR. SAMUEL WILKS'S LECTURES ON ANATOMY.

Lately published, in 8vo. pp. 480, price 10s. 6d.

**Lectures on Pathological Anatomy;** with Accompanying Tables: Being a Systematic Treatise on the subject, and a Complete Manual for Students. By SAMUEL WILKS, M.D. Lond., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Assistant Physician to Guy's Hospital, Lecturer on Pathology, and Curator of the Museum.

London: LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMAN, and ROBERTS.