

## Association Intelligence.

### BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Thirty-second Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Cambridge, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 3rd, 4th, and 5th days of August next.

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, *General Secretary*.

13, Newhall Street, Birmingham, May 10th, 1864.

### COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

THE Committee of Council will meet at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on THURSDAY, the 30th of June, at a quarter before Three o'clock P.M., for Three precisely.

*Business.*—To receive communications from the President.

—To prepare the Report to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Any other business which may be brought forward.

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, *General Secretary*.

13, Newhall Street, Birmingham, June 15th, 1864.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
MIDLAND. [Annual.]	Exchange Rooms, Nottingham.	Thursday, June 23rd, 2.30 P.M.
SOUTH MIDLAND. [Annual.]	Woburn.	Thurs., June 23, 1 P.M.
LANCASH. & CHESHIRE. [Annual.]	Town Hall, Lancaster.	Wednesday, June 29th, 12 noon.
NORTH WALES. [Annual.]	Black Lion Hotel, Mold.	Tuesday, July 5, 1.30 P.M.
WEST SOMERSET. [Annual.]	Clarke's Castle Hotel, Taunton.	Wednesday, July 6, 2.30 P.M.
METROPOL. COUNTIES. [Annual.]	Crystal Palace, Sydenham.	Tuesday, July 12, 3.30 P.M.

### MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE Annual Meeting of the Midland Branch will be held at the Exchange Rooms, Nottingham, on Thursday, June 23rd, at 2.30 P.M.; W. H. RANSOM, M.D., President.

Dinner at the George Hotel, at 5 o'clock.

JOSEPH WHITE, *Hon. Secretary*.

### SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE Annual Meeting of the South Midland Branch will be held at Woburn on Thursday, the 23rd of June, at 1 P.M.; H. VEASEY, Esq., President.

Gentlemen intending to read papers or cases are requested to forward the titles of same to Dr. Bryan, Northampton.

JOHN M. BRYAN, M.D., *Hon. Secretary*.

### LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE Twenty-eighth Annual Meeting of this Branch will be held in the Town Hall, Lancaster, on Wednesday, June 29th, at Twelve o'clock, noon: E. D. DE VITRÉ, M.D., President.

Gentlemen intending to read papers are requested to transmit the titles of the same to the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Wm. Roberts, Chatham Street, Manchester, not later than June 16th.

WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

### METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

A SPECIAL General Meeting of the Metropolitan Counties Branch was held at 37, Soho Square, on Monday, June 13th, at 4 P.M.; FRANCIS SIBSON, M.D., President, in the Chair. There were also present, Drs. Risdon Bennett, Camps, Harley, Henry, Kirkes, Markham, Merriman, Ramsay, Routh, Semple, Sieveking, Stewart, and G. Webster; and Messrs. Holmes Coote, Gant, H. Lee, Lord, W. Martin, C. H. Moore, and Propert. The object of the meeting was "to consider the present position of the Army Medical Department, and to take such steps in the matter as might seem advisable."

The PRESIDENT, in opening the proceedings, remarked that the meeting had been called to consider a subject of the greatest importance. The state of the medical service of the army had become such, that for about two hundred vacancies, there were but few or no candidates; and the authorities, in this state of things, had applied an extemporaneous remedy, by appointing acting assistant-surgeons for home duty. It must be plain that, when a service of such high position as the medical department of the army was not supplied, there must be some fault at the bottom. The army medical officers were placed in a disadvantageous position, in being disabled from standing on their own defence; and, therefore, they had a special claim to such protection and advocacy as could be afforded them by this Branch, and by their professional brethren in all parts of the kingdom. He would remind the meeting, that the British Medical Association had had a great share in obtaining for the naval medical officers the Warrant of 1859; the provisions of which, he believed, were still carried out. He called on Dr. Stewart to move the first resolution.

Dr. STEWART, before speaking on the resolution to be proposed, said that he had received letters from Drs. Burrows, Begley, Andrew Clark, Cotton, Dobell, Habershon, and Hyde Salter, and from Messrs. Brodhurst, Curling, De Morgan, Hird, and Lawson, regretting their inability to attend the meeting, in the object of which they fully concurred. He supposed that the members were well aware of the dissatisfaction which existed among the medical officers of the army, arising out of the circumstance that the distinction between combatant and non-combatant officers was kept up resolutely, and very injuriously to the position of the medical men and interests of the soldier. The disastrous results of the conflict between the military department and the medical had been shewn in the Crimean war, where the military authorities had positively refused to give effect to the recommendations of the medical officers. In the Peninsular war, the recommendations made by Sir James McGrigor to the Duke of Wellington were carried out; for, if there was any hesitation, Sir James used to remark that he had advised what he thought right, and that the responsibility of carrying it out or neglecting it lay with the Duke. But now the position of the medical department of the army was such, that the lowest step had been reached; at least, it was by many hoped that matters had become so bad, that the intervention of the medical profession could not but be successful. After the Crimean war, a commission had inquired into the state of the medical department of the army; and the result of their labours was the granting of the Warrant of 1858. This warrant placed matters on such a footing, that universal satisfaction prevailed both among medical men in the army and in civil practice. It was thought that there would

be no recurrence to the former unsatisfactory state of matters; but the warrant had been obtained in spite of the army authorities; and these, by a series of partial regulations, had retracted that which was most valuable in it. Dr. Stewart dwelt, *inter alia*, upon the alterations made in Clause xvii of the Warrant; and observed that he thought enough had been said to make it by no means wonderful that there should be a deficiency of candidates. As to the employment of civilians to perform the duties of military medical officers, this was thought bad enough during the Crimean war; but what could be said, when the army medical staff was not sufficient even in the time of peace, and recourse was had to an expedient which should be regarded only as an extreme war-measure? The true reason why men entering the medical profession would not look to the army as a career, was a want of confidence in the good faith of the army authorities. The Warrant of 1858 had been so often altered, and so extensively abrogated, that medical men were unwilling to place themselves in a position in which they could be subjected to indignity. It was a remarkable fact that, while the army authorities had raised the standard of medical education for the army, they had diminished the inducements to enter the service; so that, as was lately shewn by Dr. Parkes, a considerable proportion of the few candidates who applied for admission were men of such inferior attainments, that it was impossible to admit them. It was to be hoped, however, that there would be an improvement, and that the eyes of public men would be opened to the truth of the sentiment expressed by Homer, and rendered by Pope, in the lines,

"A wise physician, skilled our wounds to heal,  
Is more than armies to the public weal."

He moved the following resolutions—

"That, owing to the successive changes in the Warrant of 1858, which gave general satisfaction, and to the practical departure from that warrant by the Executive, the medical profession have lost confidence in the good faith of the military authorities, and have, in consequence, ceased to apply for admission to the medical department of the army.

"That the frequent non-enforcement of the precedence granted by the Warrant of 1858, and its modification by the Warrant of 1863, which disqualifies the medical officer from presiding at boards (although on other than purely military matters), even when he is the senior officer present, have, by lowering his status, done more than any other grievance to deter the profession from joining the service."

Dr. MARKHAM seconded the resolution. He hoped, however, that the meeting would not be satisfied with merely attacking what the government had done. He had good evidence that much of the fault lay with the heads of the army medical department. The grievances to be amended were not only those which drove men from joining the army, but also those which were suffered by medical officers in the service.

Mr. HOLMES COOTE, having had an opportunity of witnessing the services of the army medical officers during the Crimean war, felt deeply for the grievances under which they laboured. As a lecturer in a large medical school (St. Bartholomew's), he had always exerted his influence with his pupils to prevent them from entering the army until the grievances complained of should be redressed; and, he believed, other lecturers acted in a similar manner. The idea had been expressed, that the diminution in the number of applications for the army medical service arose from a lessening in the number of students; this, however, was quite incorrect. The reason why more

medical men did not enter the army was, that many other and more attractive fields of occupation were open to them. As to the annoyances to which army medical officers were subjected, he was well acquainted with them. The authority possessed by the army medical department was not sufficiently independent, and ought to be increased. He hoped that this meeting would be but the prelude to larger meetings of medical men for the purpose of advocating the claims of the army medical officers.

Mr. GANT supported the resolution.

Dr. G. WEBSTER observed that on a former occasion—during the Russian war—the Branch had appointed a Committee in regard to army medical matters. He had himself taken much interest in the matter, and had had an interview with the then Director-General, Dr. Andrew Smith; who acknowledged to him that, although nominally director, he had four or five masters. The result of the inquiry of the parliamentary committee had been to find that the disasters of the Crimean war did not arise from the fault of the medical officers, but from the manner in which they were impeded by other departments. As to the effect produced by the Branch Committee, he believed that, out of about eight or ten grievances pointed out by a deputation to Lord Panmure, six or eight had been amended in the Warrant.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Dr. SIEVEKING moved—

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, in future the warrants which express the terms of service under which medical men enter the army shall be perfectly defined, so that no misapprehension can arise; and that no alteration shall be made in such warrants without an inquiry, which shall be open to the medical service, of the same extent and care as that which led to their first promulgation; and, moreover, that any such alteration shall be made with formality and publicity, and after an explanation to the medical officers of the grounds on which it has been considered necessary to alter the terms of service."

He said that, if there were any lukewarm persons in the meeting, it might be necessary to remind them that the army medical officer had no alternative but to associate with a particular class of men; and that his very life depended on the manner in which he was treated. He believed that the army medical service was generally entered for the purpose of avoiding the harass of ordinary practice; and, unless a medical man in the army could have a proper position secured to him, he lost all that for which he entered the service—for his pay and provision were but small, and his means of bringing up his family were limited. If, too, the value of the British soldier were remembered—a value which exceeded that of the soldiers of other nations—we ought to take care that the army medical officer was properly supported. He held that it was the privilege and duty of himself and the meeting, not only as members of the British Medical Association and as medical men, but also as Englishmen, to support any measures which aimed at improving the condition of the medical officers of the army.

Dr. WEBSTER seconded the resolution. He concurred in the opinion that the question was one which ought to be taken up by the Association, and by this Branch in particular.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. W. MARTIN proposed the following resolution—  
"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Warrant of 1858 should be the basis of future regulations for the Army Medical Department, subject to the following modifications:

"1. The proper definition and enforcement of the precedence of the medical officer, in accordance with

his rank, at boards, mess, and committees of all kinds.

"2. Increased pay of assistant-surgeons and surgeons.

"3. Promotion to the rank of surgeon after, at most, ten years' full-pay service.

"4. Optional retirement after twenty years' full-pay service on an adequate pension.

"5. Controlling power and free agency in his own department, especially in times of emergency.

"6. Regular leave for medical officers, and sick leave on the same footing as is granted to all other officers.

"7. Non-deduction of pay for expenses incurred in the execution of his duty.

"8. The abolition of the system of 'confidential reports' on the conduct of medical officers.

"9. That all punishment inflicted by order of the military authorities should be carried out by them; the medical officer's duty on such occasions being limited to the protection of the soldier."

Mr. Martin said he would enter into but few details. There were two warrants at present in operation; that of 1858, which had been partially altered; and that of May 1st, 1863, which had been substituted for the seventeenth clause of the warrant of 1858.\* He read the clause and the new warrant; and observed that, while the former was clear and precise, the latter was very unintelligible, and appeared to deprive the medical officer of the presidency, not only of courts-martial (which no one wished him to have), but of boards of all kinds. This was the first point suggested for improvement, and it was very important; but he feared that the medical officers of the army would not now be contented with such a simple redress of grievances as would have satisfied them in 1860. The pay of assistant-surgeons might be sufficient at the commencement; but it was not so for them, nor for surgeons, when they had been some time in the army. With regard to the third point, he observed that promotion was sometimes very rapid, at other times very slow; and must always be retarded if made dependent on the occurrence of vacancies. If, too, a reduction in the army medical staff were made, the chance of promotion would be thereby diminished. It was therefore suggested that, in all cases, promotion should take place after a maximum period of ten years' service. The question of retirement was a very important one. Medical men entered the army late in life, as compared with ensigns; but were required at present to serve twenty-five years. The importance of the sixth recommendation was evident. As to leave, it was a very great grievance that, from the small number of medical officers in the service, leave could not be obtained by them. The army medical officer was, he considered, specially entitled by the nature of his duties to fixed terms of leave, and especially to a more liberal allowance of sick-leave. The explanation of the seventh recommendation was that, in many cases, where extras for the sick soldiers had been ordered by the medical officers, these had been disallowed on frivolous pretences, so that the medical men were fined for expenses incurred by them in performing their duty. As to the eighth recommendation, a system of confidential reports on the conduct, sobriety, etc., of the assistant-surgeons, was expected to be carried on by the surgeons; but this was often thought to be so great an injustice and hardship, that many surgeons had refused to perform it, and had consequently fallen into disfavour. The ninth and last recommendation was intended to include the operation of branding deserters, which was required to be performed under the superintendence of the

medical officer. The special points to be borne in mind were: first, that the rank of the medical officer ought to be strictly defined; and secondly, that, as the soldier was entitled to the best surgical aid, every means should be taken to ensure this for him.

Dr. HENRY seconded the resolution.

Dr. SIEVEKING asked whether it was desired that army medical officers should have the privilege of being presidents of courts-martial.

The PRESIDENT replied, that this was certainly not desired.

Dr. HENRY said that the Warrant of 1863 appeared to prevent the army medical officer from being president of any board whatever, such as one of sanitary inquiry, etc.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr. MARTIN also moved, and Dr. HENRY seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously.

"That it is deemed inexpedient that the systematic employment of deputy or acting assistant-surgeons without examination be continued; since it will inevitably introduce an inferior class of medical men into the service, and at the same time inflict great hardship on the military medical officer by increasing indefinitely the period of foreign service; and so still further deter medical men from entering the medical department of the army."

Mr. PROPERT moved, Mr. HENRY LEE seconded, and it was resolved—

"That every means should be taken, through the medium of the military journals, and otherwise, to explain to the combatant officers that, if they desire to secure, for the promotion of the soldier's welfare, the services of the better members of the profession, they must receive as one of their own body, and cease to treat with jealousy, the medical officer, who, equally with themselves, is a gentleman, and is exposed in time of war to the risks of the field."

Mr. LORD moved, Dr. HARLEY seconded, and it was unanimously resolved—

"That these resolutions be embodied in a memorial, to be presented (as a petition) to the Houses of Lords and Commons, and to the Prime Minister, the Secretary and Under Secretary for War, the Commander-in-Chief, and the Director-General of the Army Medical Department; and that the members of both Houses be personally requested to support the prayer of the petition.

"That these resolutions be communicated to the Executive Committee of Council; and that the other Branches of the Association be invited to take early steps towards the promotion of the movement."

Dr. CAMPS proposed, Mr. GANT seconded, and it was resolved—

"That the Council of this Branch be requested to carry into effect the resolutions carried by the meeting."

**MEDICAL PORTRAITS.** This year at the Royal Academy, the late Sir J. W. Gordon has contributed two portraits—Professor Christison and Dr. W. Sellers—both for the Hall of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh. The portraits of Dr. Brinton and that of Alexander Guthrie, Esq., of Brechin (on his completing his fiftieth year of professional life in that town), deserve notice. Weekes has contributed two fine marble statues—one of John Hunter, which is to be placed by public subscription (for which a thousand guineas are already subscribed) in the Hall of the London College of Surgeons; the other of W. Harvey, for the Hall of the new Museum at Oxford. There are statues of Dr. Babington and Mr. W. Cock, and a statuette in bronze, by Halse, of the late H. C. Johnson. (*Dublin Medical Press.*)

\* See page 670.

## Medical News.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.** The following members of the College, having undergone the necessary examinations, were admitted Licentiates in Midwifery at a meeting of the Board, on the 8th instant.

Akerman, William, St. Just, Cornwall; diploma of membership dated April 28, 1864  
 Baker, George Benson, Bayswater; April 26, 1864  
 Broughton, Henry Todd, Bradford, Yorkshire; May 10, 1864  
 Lucey, William Cubitt, Bermondsey; January 28, 1864  
 Mills, Samuel, Consumption Hospital, Brompton; April 23, 1863  
 Oliver, George, Bourne; July 30, 1863  
 Puzey, Chauncy, Surrey Square; July 31, 1863  
 Reade, Albert Comberbach, Congleton; April 27, 1864  
 Richards, Frederick William, Winchester; April 26, 1864  
 Salter, John Henry, Arundel, Sussex; April 27, 1864  
 Viant, Henry, Totton, near Southampton; April 26, 1864

**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.** At a Congregation holden on June 9th, the following degrees were conferred.

*Master in Surgery.*  
 Godson, Alfred, Trinity College

*Bachelors of Medicine.*  
 Godson, Alfred, Trinity College  
 Hoffman, Henry Westwood, Trinity College  
 Leighton, Edmund Thomas, Caius College

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.** On June 9th, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Broughton, Henry Todd, Bradford, Yorkshire  
 Holden, John, Ardwick and Ancots Dispensary, Manchester  
 Maundrell, Edward, Rutland Street, Hampstead Road  
 Pearse, George Edmund Legge, Regent Street, Westminster

At the same Court, the following passed the first examination:—

Tidy, Charles Meymott, London Hospital

### APPOINTMENTS.

#### ARMY.

CLERY, Assistant-Surgeon G. C., 9th Lancers, to be Staff-Assistant-Surgeon.  
 CLUTTERBUCK, Staff-Surgeon J. E., M.D., to be Surgeon 42nd Foot, vice J. S. Furlong, M.D.  
 FINUCANE, M., Esq., to be Staff-Assistant-Surgeon.  
 FURLONG, Surgeon J. S., M.D., 42nd Foot, to be Surgeon 6th Dragoons, vice C. A. Turnbull.  
 HEATHER, D. D., Esq., to be Staff-Assistant-Surgeon.  
 HEFFERNAN, Surgeon-Major N. M. B., 11th Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon-Major, vice W. G. Trousdell, M.D.  
 HINDE, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon B., to be Staff-Surgeon, vice W. K. Chalmers, M.D.  
 McDONALD, Staff-Surgeon-Major D. D. McCay, to be Surgeon 25th Foot, vice R. Browne.  
 MASON, Honorary Assistant-Surgeon S., in Medical Charge of the Lunatic Asylum at Madras, to have the honorary rank of Surgeon.  
 SPRY, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon G. F., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 9th Lancers, vice G. C. Clery.  
 TROUSDELL, Staff-Surgeon-Major W. G., M.D., to be Surgeon 11th Foot, vice N. Heffernan, M.B.  
 TURNBULL, Surgeon G. A., 6th Dragoons, to be Staff-Surgeon, vice J. E. Clutterbuck, M.D.

#### ROYAL ARTILLERY. To be Assistant-Surgeons.

BOUCHIER, Assistant-Surgeon G., 93rd Foot.  
 BOYD, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon W. C.  
 CALDER, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon W. M., 33rd Foot.  
 COLLIS, Assistant-Surgeon W., 98th Foot.  
 FROLLIOTT, Assistant-Surgeon F., 18th Foot.  
 GAYE, Assistant-Surgeon A. C., 4th Foot.  
 HULSEBERG, Assistant-Surgeon J. W., 33rd Foot.  
 JARDINE, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon J. M.D., 3rd Foot.  
 KILROY, Assistant-Surgeon A. R., 33rd Foot.  
 KINAHAN, Assistant-Surgeon J., M.D., 44th Foot.  
 M'FARLAND, Assistant-Surgeon F. E., 77th Foot.  
 MOORHEAD, Assistant-Surgeon G. A., 66th Foot.  
 O'BRIEN, Assistant-Surgeon T. M., 95th Foot.  
 O'HALLORAN, Assistant-Surgeon W., 74th Foot.  
 RAMSDOTHAM, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon W. B., M.D.  
 RUSSELL, Assistant-Surgeon A. S., M.D., 25th Foot.  
 SIX, Assistant-Surgeon W., 31th Foot.  
 YATES, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon W. H., 33rd Foot.

#### ROYAL NAVY.

ALPIN, William J., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Implacable*, for the *Martin*.  
 DEVONSHIRE, Charles J., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Warrior*.  
 FEGAN, Henry, M.D., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Dauntless*.  
 O'MALLEY, James V. J., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Boscawen*, for the *Ferret*.  
 SCOTT, Allen, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Impregnable*, for the *Sparrow*.

#### MILITIA.

HYDE, G. E., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon Worcestershire Militia.  
 MORRIS, E., Esq., to be Surgeon 2nd or South Devonshire Militia.  
 WHIPPLE, C., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 2nd or South Devonshire Militia.

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

STEPHEN, W., M.D., to be Assistant-Surg. 1st Aberdeenshire A.V.

### DEATHS.

CARTWRIGHT, S., Esq., F.R.S., at Tunbridge, aged 75, on June 11.  
 CROASDAILE. On June 8rd, at Putney, Elizabeth Dillon, widow of Edward Croasdaile, M.D., of Boulogne-sur-Mer and St. David's, Jamaica.  
 DAVIDSON. On April 29th, at Mhow, Catherine W. J. McGhee, wife of Robert H. Davidson, M.D., Acting Deputy Inspector-General, Mhow.  
 M'GILL. On June 14th, at Tunbridge, aged 15, Kenneth John, youngest son of the late William M'Gill, M.D.  
 MAY. On June 10th, aged 74, Elizabeth, wife of George May, Esq., Surgeon, Maldon, Essex.  
 PHILBRICK. On June 12th, at Ipswich, Hannah, wife of Cornelius J. Philbrick, M.D., of Toronto.  
 PRANCE, James C., Esq., Surgeon, late of Maidstone, at Richmond, aged 76, on June 14.  
 SMITH, Edmund, M.D., of Ilkley Wells, near Otley, at Richmond, Yorkshire, aged 59, on June 5.  
 WALLACE, William, M.D., late 14th Regiment of Foot, at Morning-side, Edinburgh, on June 7.

**LUNACY COMMISSION GRANT.** The sum of £5,173 has been voted by Parliament to defray certain expenses of the Commissioners of Lunacy in England and the Board of Lunacy in Scotland.

**POISON BILL.** Mr. H. Berkeley has given notice in the House of Commons that, on the 7th of next month, he shall ask leave to introduce a bill to amend the Act prohibiting the sale of poisoned seed, passed last session.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.** At a congregation held at the University of Cambridge on June 9th, a grace was passed to grant the use of the Senate House and schools for the forthcoming meeting of the British Medical Association, under the superintendence of the vice-chancellor, Dr. Bond (Regius Professor of Physic), and Dr. Paget.

**FATAL ACCIDENT TO DR. LYNCH OF BELFAST.** Dr. Lynch of Belfast, whilst going to take possession of a mansion near Antrim, which he had lately purchased, was thrown out of his phaeton, and so injured that he died in consequence. Dr. Lynch, who was paralysed on one side, was a highly respectable physician, and for many years one of the medical staff of the General Hospital. He was about fifty years of age. (*Dublin Medical Press.*)

**NARROW ESCAPE FROM POISONING.** Between thirty and forty boys narrowly escaped last week being poisoned at Birmingham. The London and North-Western Company were having a sale of unclaimed goods; and among the articles were several sacks of *Jatropha* nuts, which are pleasant to the palate, but poisonous. These nuts were scattered about the floor in a warehouse, and were picked up by the boys in passing; they distributed them among their companions. All who ate them were speedily seized with illness, such as vomiting, pains in the stomach, and torpor. The sufferers were sent to the General Hospital, and by the employment of prompt means they were restored, but in several instances death had well-nigh been the consequence.

**HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES.** The first stone of a new wing to the House for Incurables at Putney Heath was lately laid. The building, it is expected, will be finished before next winter.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.** The annual dinner will take place on July 7th, at the Albion Tavern. A metropolitan Fellow, Mr. J. M. Arnott, will this year take the chair; and the meeting, judging from the long list of stewards, will be large.

**LUNACY (SCOTLAND).** The Lord Advocate has obtained leave to bring in a bill to continue the Deputy Commissioners in Lunacy in Scotland, and to make further provision for the salaries of the deputy commissioners, secretary, and clerk of the General Board of Lunacy, and the bill was read a first time.

**LONDON HOSPITAL.** The laying the foundation-stone of the wing about to be erected at the London Hospital, will take place on July 4th. The Prince of Wales intends to be present, and the Duke of Cambridge will take the chair. The estimated cost of the new wing is £27,000.

**METROPOLITAN DISPENSARY.** At the last annual meeting of the Metropolitan Dispensary, Fore Street, it was resolved that "the plan adopted at the Royal General Dispensary, and at the Islington, Liverpool, and other Dispensaries, of requiring from the patients the nominal sum of one penny for each supply of medicine, should be adopted."

**A NON-REGISTERED PRACTITIONER:** *Alvarez de la Rosa v. Prieto.* This was an action by a foreign medical man, employed by another medical man to attend the crew of a Peruvian frigate who were labouring under a bad fever while in the Thames, for his fees, to which the defendant replied that the plaintiff was not registered as a medical man, as required by statute, and could not, therefore, sue for his fees; a rule having been obtained to enter a non-suit, and to set aside the verdict for the plaintiff. The Court (of Common Pleas) were of opinion that the rule ought to be made absolute.

**HEALTH OF SCOTLAND.** The Registrar-General has again to report for May, as for April, that in the eight principal towns of Scotland, births, deaths, and marriages have all been more in number than he has registered in any May since his office was established, at the beginning of 1855. The rate of increase was greater in deaths than in births, but greatest of all in marriages. In Paisley and Dundee, half the deaths were of children under five years old; and in Glasgow, very nearly half. A fourth of the deaths were due to zymotic (epidemic and contagious) diseases. Typhus was epidemic, and in Paisley small-pox also; and whooping-cough was fatal in many instances.

**FOSSIL REMAINS.** There has just been deposited in the British Museum a large collection of fossils from the cave of Bruniquel, in the department of Tarn et Garonne, which was first opened by its proprietor, the Vicomte de Lastic St. Jal. The cave had a floor which was a perfect mosaic of remains, containing flint and bone instruments, remains of existing and extinct animals, with skulls and other relics of man. Professor Owen was invited to visit it; and he observed and excavated most interesting specimens, which he advised the trustees of the Museum to purchase. The Viscount had offered it to his own Government, but the prize was let slip. Afterwards, when Professor Owen had secured the cave-contents for London, Paris made a higher bid; but the promise was honourably observed. These silent proofs of primeval man are now in process of examination and description by Mr. Owen.

**EXTRAORDINARY SUICIDAL MANIA.** In Cheltenham within the past month no less than six persons have committed suicide.

**PRIVY COUNCIL EXPENSES.** In the House of Commons, Mr. Augustus Smith asked for explanation of £10,600 charged for contingent expenses. Mr. F. Peel stated that of this sum £3,000 was annually placed at the disposal of the Privy Council to pay medical and other officers who were from time to time deputed to conduct inquiries and experiments; £2,000 was for the national vaccine establishment; £2,000 for vaccination inspection; and the remaining £3,600 was a matter of account arising from the medical department of the Privy Council having been unaware of the rule that payments should only be made out of the votes for the current year.

**VACCINATION.** In the House of Commons Sir J. Pakington asked whether, in accordance with the statement of the Lord President last year, that "the Government were considering the best means of effecting an improvement in the vaccination law." Mr. Bruce believed a very large and unnecessary loss of life arose from neglect of the provisions of the Vaccination Act. Though the provisions of the Act were obligatory, the enforcement of them depended upon the co-operation of boards of guardians, the vaccinating surgeon, and the parents of the children. Where that was given the Act had been tolerably successful, but where that was wanting the result was lamentable. When a similar question was put to the President of the Council in another place, he stated that in his opinion there were only two methods by which the defects of the present law could be corrected. One was the increasing of the compulsory powers of the Act, and the other was by increasing the pecuniary inducement to the vaccinating surgeons, and stated as his opinion that Parliament would not consent to greater compulsory powers, and he did not see his way to the accomplishment of the other alternative. He understood the noble lord in the other House had given notice of his intention to introduce a bill to Parliament which would be referred to a select committee.

**DISEASED MEAT.** In the House of Commons lately Sir J. C. Jervoise called attention to the charge for expenses connected with the inspection of sheep to prevent the spread of disease, and maintained that the statements in the blue-book were calculated to create a panic among agriculturalists. Every fifth animal, and by consequence every fifth mutton chop, was stated to be diseased, while there was not only death in the pot but in the pail. The total loss by preventible diseases in cattle was estimated at £6,000,000 yearly. He wished to know who was to be held responsible for such statements, inasmuch as the medical officer who had despatched eminent veterinary surgeons on commissions of inquiry, not only through this country but abroad, disconnected himself in a note at the end of his report from the opinions put forward by them. The epidemic diseases were attributed in the blue-book to contagion originally of foreign origin, whereas the medical officer attached to the Customs Department reported that not a single case of small-pox in sheep had entered this country.

**MEMORIAL TO SIR HUMPHRY DAVY.** On the 10th instant, a large meeting of the inhabitants of Penzance, the birthplace of Sir Humphry Davy, was held in the Guildhall to consider the subject of erecting a memorial to his memory. Mr. Coulson, the ex-High Sheriff of Cornwall, took the chair, having, at the solicitation of the working men, come specially from London for the purpose of presiding, and of paying his eloquent tribute to the memory of Sir Humphry Davy. In the course of the proceedings it was stated

that £1,000 had been offered by two maiden ladies of Penzance towards the memorial, on condition that it should assume the form of almshouses for persons of respectability who had been reduced to poverty through unforeseen circumstances. The committee had accordingly determined to adopt this form of memorial, in combination with a statue, and it was calculated that £10,000 would be required to carry out the idea in a fitting manner. Of this sum about £1,500 has already been subscribed in the town. Resolutions were unanimously adopted in favour of the scheme proposed, and the carrying out of the details was intrusted to the committee already formed. The movement was set on foot by working men. Mr. Coulson delivered a very eloquent address on the occasion, setting forth in detail all the great deeds of the chemist, and giving an interesting biography of him.

**MORTALITY OF THE FRENCH ARMY.** A report on the sanitary condition of the French army during 1862 states that the public health was in general good during that period. No great epidemic had been observed in France. There were 2,871 deaths among the army in France, being an average of 9.42 in 1,000 of the effective force; there were 666 deaths in Algeria, being 12.21 in 1,000; in Algiers 337 deaths, being 17.69 in 1,000; altogether, 3,874 deaths, or an average of 10.14 on the entire effective force. In the year 1846 the average number of deaths in the army was officially announced at 19 in 1,000 for France, and 64 in 1,000 for Algeria. "Such," says the report, "is the progress accomplished within sixteen years in the health of the army." The report further states that the mortality in the year 1860 among men of from 20 to 30 years of age, being civilians, was 11.09 in 1,000, being greater than among soldiers serving in France. The average deaths by disease among soldiers having served less than seven years are 10.46 in 1,000. It is but 5.28 in 1,000 among men serving from seven to fourteen years, and 5.85 in 1,000 among men serving above fourteen years. The greater number of veterans in the army, the less, consequently, the mortality.

**SANITARY SCIENCE IN INDIA.** "For many years a fever of a terrible type has been raging over a great part of Lower Bengal, but not until a few months ago did the government deem it necessary to take any steps to check its further progress. It has been estimated that 36 per cent. of the population of the infected district have fallen victims to it. In one part 12,000 out of 18,000 inhabitants died within six years. Medical skill seemed unavailing in its treatment; it comes on suddenly, and commonly kills the patient in from thirty-six hours to four or five days. The doctors call it a 'congestive remittent fever,' and the natives say that it is a new disease, and call it *nutan jwar*. Any one who has seen village life in Bengal will understand the conclusion of the Commissioners, that the fever has been generated by the utter neglect of the most elementary sanitary laws. Close to the mud hut of the ryot is a hole where he places all filth and refuse. The hut itself is surrounded with jungle or bamboo, through which scarcely a breath of fresh air can ever penetrate. There is, perhaps, a tank near, covered with slime and vegetation, in which the people bathe and wash their clothes, and the water of which they daily drink. They have no other. In the Mahomedan quarters the dead are buried on the borders of these tanks. Or the water is obtained from the river, into which dead Hindoos by the hundred are thrown, and are washed up and down by the tide. Thus the appalling disease is generated; and Dr. Elliot, who has lived in the midst of the district, tells us part of the result. 'Many large *baries*, in which there were formerly

thirty or forty residents, have now been left with perhaps one solitary occupant; whole mohullas and streets have been deserted, and large villages, which formerly told their residents by thousands, can now almost number them by hundreds.' The unborn child is infected with it, and dies; old and young, rich and poor, perish like sheep, and it might almost be said that no man regardeth them. The Commissioners evidently do not know what to recommend. The inhabitants of the villages are satisfied with their mode of life and will not change it, and the Commissioners say they are not prepared to advise that they should be compelled to do so. Every year the epidemic becomes worse, and must continue to spread under the present conditions."

**YEAR'S WORK OF A CORONER.** Dr. Lankester has just given at a meeting of the Social Science Association, a sketch of his work as coroner for the central district of Middlesex in the year ending July 31st, 1863. The population of the district is stated at 805,975 (meaning probably at the census of April 1861), and he held 1,080 inquests (203 of them at hospitals, prisons, or asylums), one for every 746 persons. The proportion is very much higher in St. Giles's; yet the medical officer of that parish has to state that in 1862, 45 bodies were interred without an inquiry when there ought to have been one. "It is intolerable in a civilised country," he says, "that persons dying in this way should be interred without inquiry; in at least two cases there was *prima facie* ground for suspecting poison." Dr. Lankester states that "the registration of death and the burial of the body without any medical certificate, is of very common occurrence in London." Very unsatisfactory medical certificates are also accepted by some registrars; sometimes the medical man never saw the deceased either alive or dead. Irregular certificates ought always to be referred to the coroner. In the course of the year there were 53 deaths of new-born children with verdicts of wilful murder or neglect, very often on the part of some person unknown; there were besides eight deaths of new-born children from "unknown causes" and eight "accidental deaths," making 69 inquests on new born children. It is, says the coroner, a fearful picture of the moral condition of the district. The crime of infanticide is very much more frequent in some parts of central Middlesex than in others, and the subject seems one that demands investigation. The crime appears to be most frequent among women in domestic service. Sixteen children were picked up in the streets that had never breathed. The absence of any registration of stillborn children is undoubtedly a source of crime. Children are often brought to the undertaker for burial as stillborn without any guarantee for that fact, and where women can find accomplices this presents a very ready method of getting rid of children without any inquiry as to the cause of their death. As many as ninety children were suffocated in bed, some of them first-born children of young mothers ignorant of the necessity of fresh air for the life of their offspring, others the children of parents who had gone to bed not sober and caused their child's death by culpable neglect. With regard to inquests on adults, the coroner reports that 70 of the 1,080 deaths were suicides. The largest number of the suicides was by poison, and this is effected often by articles extensively used in various branches of industry, and therefore easily procured for an improper purpose. The year's inquests imply that the tendency to commit suicide is more than twice as great among men as among women, and that men prefer hanging or the knife, women poisoning or drowning. In a large proportion of these cases, habits of intoxication had preceded the act of suicide.