

supply of suitable food to the sick poor, and to poor lying-in women. These kitchens could be established in connection with: 1. The hospital, the infirmary, or the dispensary, in towns, or with the village hospital, where such already exists; or with—2. Some existing school, institution, or—3. As separate and distinct institutions in towns or villages, on a scale dependent upon the income."

Dr. Barker then details the way of carrying out these kitchens; and lays down rules for their management.

"Steps" (he adds) "have lately been taken to establish two kitchens (in town and village) of the kind now suggested. On another occasion, I may, perhaps, give an account of their management, etc. In the meantime I shall be most happy to give all the information in my power to any one desirous of establishing such an institution."

No one can praise too highly the establishing of kitchens in connexion with dispensaries and hospitals, and for this plain reason, that proper food is, in a great many out-door patients, of much more importance than mere drugs; that drugs, without such food, are often quite unavailing for the cure.

In a pamphlet entitled *The Painless Extinction of Life in Animals Designed for Human Food*, Dr. MacCormac recommends the use of carbonic acid as the means of destroying the animals. He would have them killed just as dogs are in the Grotto del Cane. Afterwards they might be let blood; but this he objects to on account of the loss of food entailed thereby. It does not appear that he has experimentally tested his proposal.

At the annual meeting of the Parisian Surgical Society, the *éloge* of Mr. Guthrie was pronounced by the Secretary, M. Legouest. M. Legouest related the life of Mr. Guthrie, followed him through the campaigns of Spain and Portugal from 1807 to 1813, and represented him as assisting the wounded at Waterloo. His eulogy appears to have excited the jealousy of the critic, who thus speaks of the discourse.

"He showed us Mr. Guthrie in private life, in private practice, rich, honoured, and esteemed; he spoke of him as an army surgeon in the field, as a civil practitioner, as professor, as operator, and as the author of remarkable works. And yet, who was there, of those listening to M. Legouest, who could boast that he knew the English surgeon as writer, as operator, as professor, as military surgeon, or as private practitioner?"

**POISONOUS HERBAGE.** Specimens have been brought to Sydney of the poisonous bush that has proved so destructive to sheep passing through the desert to the north. Messrs. Devlin and Simpson lost no less than 2,200 sheep from eating this bush. Mr. Devlin describes it as a pretty shrub, about four feet high, with a bright scarlet pea blossom. The botanical name is *Gastrolobium grandiflorum*, and it was first discovered by Stuart in Arnheim's Land.

## Association Intelligence.

### BRANCH MEETING TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BATH AND BRISTOL. [Ordinary.]	Victoria Rooms, Clifton.	Wednesday, Jan. 25, 7.15 P.M.

### MEDICAL PROVIDENT FUND.

The following contributions have been made towards the Guarantee Fund.

	£.	s.	d.
Amount already announced .....	576	16	0
<i>London and Middlesex:</i>			
Dr. G. T. Gream .....	21	0	0
Cæsar H. Hawkins, Esq., F.R.S. ....	10	10	0
<i>Cumberland:</i>			
Dr. S. Lockie (Carlisle) .....	1	1	0
<i>Essex:</i>			
Henry Laver, Esq. (Colchester) .....	1	0	0
<i>Hampshire:</i>			
John Covey, Esq. (Alresford) .....	5	5	0

Further contributions will be announced.

Gentlemen desirous of contributing to the Guarantee Fund, will oblige by forwarding their names and the amount of their donations, either to the Chairman (Dr. Richardson, 12, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W.); or to the Secretary (Dr. Henry, 15, George Street, Portman Square, W.)

B. W. RICHARDSON, M.D., *Chairman*.

ALEXANDER HENRY, M.D., *Secretary*.

London, 19th January, 1865.

### WEST SOMERSET BRANCH: QUARTERLY MEETING.

A QUARTERLY meeting was held at Clarke's Castle Hotel, Taunton, on Wednesday, January 11th, at 7 P.M.; HENRY ALFORD, Esq., in the Chair.

Letters from the President, Dr. Kinglake, and from several other members, expressing their regret at being unable to attend, from illness and other causes, were read.

**New Member.** A. G. Cox, Esq., of Crewkerne, was elected a member of the Association and of the Branch.

**Medical Provident Fund.** A letter was read from Dr. Henry; and, after some discussion, it was resolved, that the subject of electing a Director to the Provident Relief Fund, be proposed to the annual meeting.

**Communications.** The following communications were read:—

1. The effect of Iodine in retarding the Growth of the Fœtus, and its application in Cases of Deformed Pelvis. By Hugh Norris, Esq. This paper elicited an interesting discussion. Mr. Norris was requested to send his paper for publication in the JOURNAL.

2. Mr. S. Farrant gave the result of his experience of the use of Tincture of Digitalis in Delirium Tremens. He had found that when given in three-drachm doses (P.B.), very speedy and marked beneficial effects followed. If the tincture was good, the patient was often tranquillised almost immediately, and fell asleep in an hour or two; if not, a second and third dose were administered at intervals of five or six hours, until sleep was induced: and this successful result never failed to happen; and he never observed any depressing or injurious effects follow.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES  
BRANCH: GENERAL MEETING.

A GENERAL meeting of this Branch was held at the Old Library, Birmingham, on Thursday, January 12; FURNEAUX JORDAN, Esq., in the Chair.

*Paper.* The following paper was read:—

On Holt's Treatment of Stricture of the Urethra, illustrated by several successful cases. By J. S. Wilders, Esq.

## Reports of Societies.

## OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 1864.

HENRY OLDHAM, M.D., President, in the Chair.

PROFESSOR Pajot, Professor Hecker, and Dr. Marion Sims, were elected Foreign Honorary Fellows; and two ordinary Fellows were elected.

*Specimens.* Mr. GAYTON presented to the Society a pair of forceps with a spring-racket attached to the handles, as made at his suggestion, and employed by himself on many occasions without a still-birth.

Dr. BARNES exhibited a piliferous cyst of the ovary.

Mr. BAKER BROWN showed a large fibroid tumour and uterus, the latter containing a large mass of fibroid growth to which the ovaries were adherent, and enlarged by cystic disease. It was proposed to remove only the large mass. Upon opening the abdomen the tumour was found to be pendulous, attached to the uterus by a very small pedicle. This was divided by the *écraseur*, but profuse bleeding ensued; and it was then considered advisable to remove the whole uterus and ovaries in one. This was done, the cervix uteri being transfixed by two ligatures an inch and a half from the os, and each broad ligament being pierced with a needle and tied with strong twine. After the removal of the mass it was found that the ligature of one of the broad ligaments had slipped, and that bleeding was going on. It was taken up with the vulsellum, and a second ligature applied. The external wound being closed, the patient went on very well for ten hours, when, suddenly vomiting, she became faint, and shortly afterwards died. It was found at the *post mortem* examination that bleeding had taken place from a portion of the broad ligament which had not been included in the second ligature. Mr. Brown remarked that in any future case he should tie the broad ligament with a double instead of a single ligature, to prevent the possibility of slipping.

Dr. GRATLY HEWITT exhibited Dr. Marion Sims's modification of Chassaignac's *écraseur*, which did not arrive in time for the last meeting.

*On Puerperal Embolism.* By W. F. WADE, M.D. (Birmingham.) The author reviewed the history of the disease, which he took as a real evidence of the progress of medicine. He entered into a description of its nature and varieties, and gave a sketch of Virchow's doctrine and of his experiments upon the production of embola. He then described a case which had occurred in his practice, in a woman suffering from phlegmasia dolens, who was suddenly, during exertion, seized with severe dyspnoea three weeks after her delivery. The pulse was feeble; skin cold and clammy. This state continued, but became each day more severe, for a fortnight, when she died. As was prognosticated, a large clot was found in the pulmonary artery, extending from the third or fourth ramification.

Dr. GREENHALGH stated that cases of fatal embolism after parturition were rare. He had met with but one case in his own practice. It occurred in a very healthy young lady, who had been confined of her first child. She had had a perfectly normal labour, not followed by hæmorrhage or any untoward circumstance beyond some acceleration of the pulse on the third day after delivery. She was suddenly seized during the evening of the sixth day after her confinement with severe dyspnoea, acute agony in the cardiac region, and intense mental excitement, speedily followed by alarming prostration and death in less than three hours. *No post mortem* was made.

Dr. BALLARD asked if there had been any febrile disturbance in Dr. Greenhalgh's case.

Dr. BARNES observed that the history of this case and of others in which embolism followed upon phlegmasia dolens had an important bearing upon treatment. Thus it was usual, after the subsidence of the acute symptoms of phlegmasia dolens, to rub the affected limb with the view of promoting absorption and supplying passive exercise to the muscles and other tissues. It might be that this friction would favour the detachment of a clot from the femoral vein, which being thrown into the circulation would constitute "embolism." This danger should be borne in mind. He thought the connection between a febrile state and clotting or thrombosis, suggested by the question of Dr. Ballard, was very frequent. He believed in most cases of phlegmasia dolens there was a pre-existent abnormal state of the blood which predisposed to coagulation. He (Dr. Barnes) had gathered up in his memoir on Thrombosis and Embolia, published in the Society's *Transactions*, vol. iv, most of the information at the time extant upon the subject. Since then, however, our information had been considerably enlarged by the publication of new cases.

### THE BEST MODE OF DELIVERING THE FÆTAL HEAD AFTER PERFORATION.

BY J. BRAXTON HICKS, M.D., F.R.S.

In introducing the subject of this paper, the author said that, notwithstanding the employment of premature labour and version, cases would occur in which it was either necessary or desirable to perforate. He pointed out that the subject had of late years not received the attention it deserved. He alluded to the disputes which arose upon Dr. Osborn's case of E. Sherwood, when that physician asserted he could draw a child's head through a brim having an inch and a half antero-posterior diameter, by tilting the base of the skull sideways, and concluded that Cæsarean section might be done away with. The disputes which followed were so acrimonious that the valuable points elicited by Drs. Hull, Hamilton, and Burns were, to a certain extent, lost sight of, at least as far as they were calculated to give any rule in practice. Dr. Burns in particular deduced from his experiments that, the calvarium of the foetal head being removed, the base of the skull could be drawn down easier face foremost than in any other direction. With this the author's experiments entirely agreed. And he pointed out further the advantage of the chin pointing anteriorly during the descent. He further instituted a comparison between the opposing diameters when the face is made to present and the other modes of drawing down the base of the skull. He then proceeded to answer the inquiry: if in cases of extreme lessening of the antero-posterior diameter, it is best to cause the face to present; and if, after simple perforation, it is best to continue vertex presentation, at what degree of reduction of the size of the head do the two presentations cause equal obstruction? This he answered by the results of experiments, which

changes are going on, no elimination can take place; and that, when they cease, it ceases to be a poison, and can no longer excite them. We cannot eliminate the changing tissues, and so the diseases arising from such causes stand in a wholly different category from mercurial tremor and lead-palsy, where we naturally try to eliminate the poison. The conclusion seems to me inevitable, that, if the poison of cholera ought to be eliminated, so ought the poison of small-pox. And I cannot at all admit that the morbid secretions in the digestive canal—the “internal cesspool”, as I think he elsewhere calls it—should be substituted for what Dr. Johnson and I alike mean when we talk of the “morbid poison” by which an attack of cholera or small-pox is induced. To empty the intestinal canal is not to “eliminate the poison”. But I will go one step further, and say that, supposing it to be very desirable to remove these morbid secretions, there is not one proof offered in the *Treatise on Epidemic Diarrhæa and Cholera* that castor-oil had any such influence until the natural process of recovery had begun, when the oil also began to take effect. Indeed, the problem of its action is one which physiology is not as yet able to solve; but the large quantity administered in these cases lends countenance to the hypothesis that, like calomel, castor-oil was not absorbed in the collapse of cholera; and that, without previous absorption, neither remedy can act as a purgative.

It is not my intention now to enter into any discussion of the value of the castor-oil treatment in cholera. Seldom has the verdict of the profession been more unanimous or more speedily arrived at than when it agreed that castor-oil could not cure the disease. Its influence for good or harm is as yet perhaps undetermined, and Dr. Johnson may in some future publication be able to prove experimentally what is its action in such cases. The result, whatever it may be, will not in the least affect the validity of my argument, and I fear that it must have been very imperfectly stated when one of such eminence in the profession has failed to perceive its meaning. My object in the Lumleian Lectures was to call the attention of the profession to the want of logical reasoning in most of our own writings. I felt that it was vain for us to attempt to oppose quackery when the arguments which pass muster among ourselves are so faulty. It seems no more than common sense and common prudence to demand, that before a remedy is pronounced to be capable of curing a disorder, some evidence of the relation of cause and effect should be adduced. Logical writers have laid down rules by which we may judge whether the evidence presented proves a “law of causation” or merely indicates an accidental sequence or coincidence. I have endeavoured to show that when the number of instances is small, the evidence must be distinct and the law definite; that it is very unsafe to propound an hypothesis except when based on a broad accumulation of facts; and that when no law can be suggested and we are driven to the alternative of statistics to establish the point, the number of cases required is enormous.

From this point of view it is quite immaterial whether castor-oil be the best, and brandy and opium the worst remedies in cholera, as asserted by Dr. Johnson, or *vice versa*. The fifteen cases mentioned in his first letter on the subject gave no logical support to the theory, and were only calculated to mislead the public, because there happened to be twelve recoveries among them. In the larger enumeration of fifty-four cases set out at length in the volume, there are none that can be pointed out as in any way suited to test the theory experimentally. And as a contribution to the statistics of cholera, the whole num-

ber of 150 cases treated with castor-oil, collected by the Board of Health, is just as insufficient to prove that is valueless, as Dr. Johnson's cases are to prove that its action is on the whole beneficial. On these points, no one who has studied inductive reasoning can arrive at any other conclusion. It is quite possible that in alluding to the theory I may have expressed myself too strongly, because my own conviction went further than a mere condemnation of the mode of reasoning—a conviction strengthened, if not derived, from the report of Drs. Paris, Babington, Tweedie, and Baly, who “found, on an examination of Dr. Johnson's cases, that eleven of them were cases of cholera in a state of collapse, of which six were fatal. Five other cases of cholera did not pass into a state of complete collapse—these terminated in recovery.”

I am, etc.,

A. W. BARCLAY.

Bruton Street, Jan. 18th, 1865.

## Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND. The following members of the College, having been elected Fellows at previous meetings of the Council, were admitted as such on January 12th.

Blathwayte, William, Louth, Lincolnshire: diploma of membership dated September 27th, 1832  
 Kilner, John, Bury St. Edmunds: April 12th, 1843  
 Nance, James, Ecclestone: October 16th, 1840  
 Sterry, Henry, J.P., Paragon, Southwark: January 2nd, 1824  
 Wolf, Abraham, Gower Street: December 16th, 1839

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On January 12th, 1865, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Clements, George, Middlesex Hospital  
 Eccles, George Henry, Felix Terrace, Islington  
 Miller, Reuben Zachæus, Richmond, Surrey  
 Williams, John Hughes, Holyhead

As an Assistant:—

Haddock, Job, Bridge Street, Runcorn, Cheshire

### APPOINTMENTS.

\*JONES, C. Handfield, M.B., F.R.S., elected Physician to St. Mary's Hospital, in the room of Dr. Chambers.

\*WELLS, Soelberg, Esq., appointed Ophthalmic Surgeon of King's College Hospital.

### ARMY.

BARRY, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon T. S., to be Assistant-Surgeon Royal Artillery, *vice* G. A. Grant.

### ROYAL NAVY.

ASHFORD, J. W., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Donegal*.  
 BREND, Alfred, Esq., Assistant-Surg. (additional), to the *Euryalus*.  
 DEVONSHIRE, C. J., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Penguin*.  
 DOYLE, E. W., Esq., Acting Assistant-Surg., to the *Princess Royal*.  
 DUNWOODIE, John, Esq., Surgeon (additional), to the *Euryalus*.  
 MAIR, George, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Fisgard*.  
 O'FLAHERTY, Thomas A., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Landrail*.  
 PATTULLO, William, M.D., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Euryalus*.  
 RICHARDSON, F. H., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to Plymouth Hospital.  
 SISSENS, W. H., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Britannia*.  
 WRIGHT, Frederick L. W., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Euryalus*.

### DEATHS.

BROWN, William H., Esq., Surgeon, of Lee, Kent, aged 55, on January 15.  
 COLEY. On January 2nd, at Paddington, aged 64, Rachel, widow of H. F. Coley, M.D.  
 FENTON. On January 8th, at Eyam Terrace, Eyam, Derbyshire, aged 21, Wm. Hattersley, second son of \*Thomas Fenton, Esq.  
 FOGARTY, Frederick W., M.D., at Marylebone, Devon, on Jan. 15.  
 TOWN. On January 15th, in Upper Fenchurch Street, Jane Frances, widow of Richard Tobin, M.D., Surgeon R.N.  
 WALKER. On January 8th, at Woburn, aged 23, Frances Harriet, eldest daughter of the late E. D. Walker, M.D., of Teignmouth.  
 WILLIAMSON, Henry G., M.D., of Holmes Chapel, at Nantwich, aged 25, on January 10.

Mr. KIERNAN is, we regret to hear, suffering from an attack of paralysis.

A DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM occurred on November 1st, 1865, in the Devon and Exeter Hospital.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. Mr. Partridge is this year designated as the deliverer of the Hunterian Oration.

GRANT MEDICAL COLLEGE, BOMBAY. The Chair of Anatomy and Physiology in the Grant College of Bombay is now vacant.

COST OF LUNATIC PATIENTS. In the Sussex County Lunatic Asylum, the weekly cost of the patients per head per week is 9s. 9d.

BEQUEST. The late Jacob Stiebel, Esq., of Pembroke Terrace, Bayswater, has bequeathed to University College Hospital £5,000.

BLACKBURN HOSPITAL. The Blackburn Infirmary was opened on the 2nd inst. as a general hospital, a regular staff of medical men having been appointed. It had previously served as an infirmary of the Blackburn Relief Committee.

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. GIBBONS. A handsome goblet and snuff-box have been presented to Dr. Gibbons, medical officer of the Wolverhampton Workhouse, by his fellow officers, as "a mark of their high esteem."

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. Professor Huxley, F.R.S., will deliver twenty-four lectures on the Mammalia in continuation of his former course, commencing on Monday, February 6th, to be followed by Professor Fergusson.

DR. BROWN-SÉQUARD. We notice by the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* that this distinguished gentleman will be prevented by ill-health from delivering his course of lectures contemplated in connection with the course of the Boston Medical College this winter.

DEATHS FROM ACCIDENT. During the past week in London 65 persons lost their lives by accidents, 33 died from fractures or contusions (of this number 6 were killed by vehicles in the street), 11 infants and one adult were suffocated, and 13 deaths ensued from burns or scalds. A female, aged 30 years, died from taking cyanide of potassium by mistake for medicine.

A NEW REMEDY. The sting of a wasp or a bee is, we are told by a Frenchman, a very valuable remedy; and *apisination* has a marvellous virtue in cases of marsh-fever, yellow fever, headaches, nervous gastralgia, cholera, and the plague. Gasparin, we are told, cured himself of muscular rheumatism and a bronchitis by the sting of a wasp. The remedy truly is not an agreeable one, but perhaps not much more disagreeable than a blister, and not so disagreeable as a moxa. (*Chem. News.*)

STRUCTURE OF NERVES. M. Roudanovsky has lately made some interesting discoveries on the structure of nerves. He cuts very thin slices after subjecting the nerves to congelation; and with these he has been enabled to determine that the primitive elements of nerves are tubes having a pentagonal or hexagonal configuration. The walls of these tubes are formed of a conjunctive tissue, which in a bundle forms a true reticulum. As to the constitution, he says that every nerve has a substratum of brain-matter, and also of the spinal marrow, and probably of the ganglionic matter also. The grey matter, he says, is the fundamental nervous substance, and plays the principal part in the functions. Energetic poisons, like strychnia and nicotine, affect the nervous cellules; while other poisons, such as opium, chloroform, and perhaps alcohol, modify the myeline.

LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETIES. Dr. Peacock has succeeded Mr. Hewitt as President of the Pathological Society; and Dr. Murchison becomes Secretary vice Dr. Bristowe. At the Obstetrical Society, Dr. Barnes is elected President in the place of Dr. Oldham; and Dr. Graily Hewitt, on retiring from the Secretary's chair, becomes Treasurer. Dr. Meadows fills Dr. Hewitt's place. Mr. Longmore succeeds Mr. Adams as President of the Harveian Society.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS IN LIVERPOOL. The grand jury at the Liverpool Quarter Sessions made a presentment, upon information furnished by Dr. Trench, the Liverpool medical officer, condemning twenty-nine lots of property in the borough, as unhealthy and unfit for human habitation. The presentment recommended either their entire demolition or their complete alteration. This is the first important proceeding under the Liverpool Sanitary Amendment Act, passed last Session.

OXFORD, THE MURDERER. Outside is a small group of gardeners labouring with the minute labour of love upon a patch of ground committed to their care; and, again, you come upon a few painters, with Edward Oxford, now a fat, elderly man, at their head, all busy, and Oxford himself carefully graining a door in beautiful style. Oxford has now perfectly recovered his sanity, and is the most orderly, most useful, and most trusted of all the inmates of Broadmoor. A small pecuniary reward is given to those who labour well as an inducement to others to do likewise, and this money they are allowed to spend in any harmless way they please. Out of his small earnings Oxford has between £50 and £60 carefully saved. (*Times.*)

MAGNESIUM LIGHT. A burning magnesium-wire of the thickness of 0.297 millimetre, evolves as much light as seventy-four stearine candles, five to the pound. If this light lasted one minute, 0.987 metre of wire, weighing 0.120 gramme, would be burnt. In order to produce a light equal to seventy-four candles burning for ten hours, whereby about twenty pounds of stearine are consumed, 72.2 grammes (2½ ounces) of magnesium would be required. The wire is now to be had at the low rate of threepence per foot; and half an inch of the wire evolves, on burning, light enough to transfer a positive image to a dry collodion plate; whilst, by the combustion of ten grains, a perfect photographic portrait may be taken, so that for photographic purposes alone the magnesium light will prove most important. (*Phar. Jour.*)

MEDICAL SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY. The President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland has received the inclosed letter:—"Nashville, Tenn., U.S.A., 16th Oct., 1864. To the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland. Sir,—As there are generally a large number of talented, educated, and adventurous young gentlemen in the medical profession in Ireland seeking for profitable employment in their profession, the writer sends the inclosed scrap of correspondence from the *Cincinnati and Ohio Commercial* of October 14th. Besides those required for Ohio, the new regiments of coloured troops are in need of surgeons, all paid by the United States Government regularly, and higher salaries than in the British service. It is, besides, a good school for young practitioners. Hospital stewards or medical cadets are also needed. No medical gentlemen are more thought of or respected here in the service than regular Irish surgeons, as they are generally, without exception, educated gentlemen.—Respectfully yours, J. A. Lynch, Captain and Assist.-Quartermaster, U.S.A." [We have just read a letter from a gentleman (an American) who held a high

position as medical officer in the Federal army. His account of the service was far from a flattering one. He had been forced to retire from the service on account of the lowness of the pay, which, under the depreciated currency, was insufficient to keep his family. His health was also greatly damaged by the incessant fatigues to which he had been subjected in the discharge of his duty. EDITOR.]

**HEALTH OF SCOTLAND.** The Registrar-General reports the deaths in the eight principal towns of Scotland in the month of December (2,411) to be the average number; but 31 per cent. of them have to be recorded as due to the zymotic (epidemic and contagious) class of diseases. Typhus fever caused more than 10 per cent. of the whole mortality; in Paisley 12.5 per cent., and in Greenock as much as 20 per cent. This has been the most severe epidemic of typhus fever which has existed in Scotland for many years. 91 deaths were attributable to violent causes, 16 of them to the upsetting of a Clyde ferry-boat. The births in the month (3,139) were above the average, and the marriages (884) reached by far the highest number registered for the month during the ten years of registration. The mean temperature of the month was rather above the average; the rainfall, the smallest the Registrar-General has recorded in December, the mean of the eight towns being 3.42 inches, which is 1.05 inch below the average. The greatest depth of rain was as Greenock—5.47 inches.

**INSANE PAUPERS.** The annual return of insane paupers in England and Wales at the beginning of the year has been issued. The return is made up to January 1st, 1864, and includes all but a few parishes rendering no account. The total number of paupers in receipt of relief on that day was little over a million—a considerable decrease (of above 130,000) as compared with January 1st, 1863; but the number of insane paupers had increased, and amounted to 37,576, of whom 27,590 were lunatics and 9,986 idiots. Thus, the pauperism ascribable to insanity, which was 3.17 per cent. of the whole pauperism on January 1st, 1863, was as much as 3.7 per cent on January 1st, 1864. In every 100 insane paupers 44 were males and 56 females. The distribution of pauper insanity appears to be very unequal. Thus, at the date of this return, London had among its 103,468 paupers as many as 5,859 insane; the south-western counties had among their larger total of 108,628 paupers only 3,705 insane. So, also, in the eastern counties among their 80,771 paupers there were but 2,456 insane, and in Wales also only 2,432 out of a total of 79,841; but stepping across the Welsh border into the west-midland counties (including Stafford, Warwick, Worcester, and Gloucester) we have 4,887 insane, double the last two numbers, among the not so greatly increased total of 104,894 paupers. Of the 37,576 insane paupers the number in county or borough lunatic asylums had risen to 20,257; the number in workhouses was still as large as 9,608.

**PRESENTATION FROM THE QUEEN TO DR. CASS.** On New Year's Day Dr. Cass, of Cowes, received through the hands of Sir Charles B. Phipps a massive and magnificent silver inkanst, "as a memorial from the Queen of her Majesty's appreciation of his skill and attention during the many years he attended in his professional capacity at Osborne." Dr. Cass, who has long been held in very high esteem at Cowes, had been the medical attendant upon the Royal family and household at Osborne for nearly twenty years; but, finding of late that his sight had become so seriously impaired as to threaten absolute blindness, he felt constrained, though still in the prime and vigour of his life, to resign his appointment at Osborne, and to withdraw altogether from the profession in which

he had established a high and well-earned reputation. This circumstance has been a matter of universal regret throughout the whole of the wide district over which Dr. Cass's practice extended; but amongst the many expressions of sympathy which have reached him from all quarters none have been so warm, and none, of course, so deeply gratifying as those which have been conveyed to him from the Queen. "Her Majesty," says Sir Charles Phipps, in the letter which accompanied the costly memorial, "hears with great regret that she shall no longer be able to avail herself of your valuable medical services; and the Queen still more laments the sad cause which has thus forced you to abandon your profession at an age when your usefulness should be greatest." Again, Sir Charles Phipps says, "I am directed to express her Majesty's sincere sympathy for the affliction which has obliged you to discontinue your valuable services." These are queenly words, and well calculated to convey to Dr. Cass the highest solace he can possibly receive under the calamity which has fallen as a fatal blight upon his professional career, and marred the fairest hopes and promise of an honourable and laborious life.

**THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM.** At the quarterly meeting of the professors held on the 10th inst., Professor Postgate said that he and Dr. Hinds had had an interview with the Earl of Lichfield. His lordship stated that he had learnt from the Charity Commissioners that the affairs of the college were in the hands of the Attorney-General, and would soon be in the Court of Chancery, and that that Court would come to some practical settlement of the college difficulties. His lordship spoke very hopefully of the prospects of the college. It was suggested to him that pending the settlement of the affairs of the college, some scheme should be adopted for carrying on the college—that that wing of the college ought to be made productive, and that for this purpose the Theological Department ought to be brought down from the Crescent to the college. His Lordship said he had made efforts in this direction with Chancellor Law, but had not yet been successful. Dr. Suckling said the public ought to be informed that there was a fair number of students, and that the work of the college was going on in a successful and promising manner. He also said the professors now worked harmoniously with each other, and with the Dean of the Faculty.

**ODONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY.** The annual meeting of this society was held on the 9th inst., Edwin Saunders, Esq. (President), in the chair. Contributions to the museum were announced from Messrs. Hepburn, Lord, and Statham. Mr. Hulme mentioned a case in which a lady had three front teeth attacked by tartar; they could be readily removed and replaced. The curious point was that, although that state continued about seven years, the presence of the teeth had preserved the gum from being absorbed. The President then read the balance-sheet and the report of the Audit Committee. It shewed an excess of expenditure over the receipts of £7:4:1 for the past year. The total balance in the hands of the Treasurer was £539:4:6. The report of the Library Committee shewed an addition of 102 volumes during the past year. Fourteen non-resident, four resident, and one corresponding member had been elected, making a total of 302 members. The following officers were then elected to serve during the present year. *President*, T. A. Rogers, Esq. *Vice-Presidents* (resident), W. A. N. Cattlin, Esq.; W. Imrie, Esq.; W. Perkins, Esq.; G. A. Ibbertson, Esq.; and James Parkinson, Esq.; (non-resident), W. K. Bridgman, Esq. (Norwich); S. Tibbs, Esq. (Cheltenham); Dr. Roberts (Edinburgh);

J. R. H. Moore, Esq. (Dublin). *Treasurer*, Arnold Rogers, Esq. *Librarian*, J. B. Fletcher, Esq. *Honorary Secretaries*, A. Coleman, Esq.; C. Vasey, Esq.; and T. Underwood, Esq. *Councillors* (resident), T. Sheffield, Esq.; C. Fox, Esq.; H. T. Kempton, Esq.; R. T. Hulme, Esq.; G. Owen, Esq.; A. Hill, Esq.; S. Cartwright, Esq.; E. J. Winterbottom, Esq.; J. Saunders, Esq.; F. Weiss, Esq.; and N. Stevenson, Esq.; (non-resident), C. D. Rogers, Esq. (Newbury); S. L. Rymer, Esq. (Croydon); E. P. Parkinson, Esq. (Brighton); W. Hunt, Esq. (Yeovil); T. A. Baker, Esq. (Dublin); and T. R. English, Esq. (Birmingham). The retiring President gave his address, glancing at the events of the past year, and paying a warm tribute of respect to the late Samuel Cartwright, their first president. A vote of thanks to the President was proposed by Mr. Rymer and carried by acclamation. Votes of thanks were also proposed to the treasurer, secretaries, librarian, and curator of the museum. The society then adjourned.

**THE MEDICAL ACT.** The Scottish Branch of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration, at a meeting on the 13th instant, resolved that any Act for amending the Medical Act should be restricted to carrying out the following objects:—1. "To confer on the Medical Council definite powers to issue to the various licensing bodies regulations on the subjects of preliminary and professional education and examination. 2. To amend Clause XL, so as to render it more efficient than it has hitherto been to distinguish between qualified and unqualified practitioners, and to prevent unqualified practitioners from assuming medical titles to which they have no right." To carry out the first or these objects, the Branch Council recommend—"That it shall be lawful for the General Medical Council to issue to licensing bodies such regulations respecting preliminary and professional education and examination as may appear to the Council fitted to secure requisite knowledge and skill. That all regulations passed by a majority of two-thirds of the General Council shall be obligatory on all universities, colleges, and other bodies enumerated in Schedule (A) to the Medical Act. That it shall be lawful for the General Council to intimate to any of the said bodies not conforming to such regulations; that, in the event of the said body not conforming within six months after such intimation, the qualification granted by such body, after the lapse of the said period of six months, shall not be registered. That any body to which such direction shall have been given may appeal to the Privy Council, who shall have power to disallow the direction of the Medical Council. That it shall be lawful for the General Council to restore any right to registration which may have been suspended by them." In order to carry out the second of these objects, the Branch Council recommend a clause to the effect—"It shall not be lawful for any person, unless registered, to take or use the title of Physician, Doctor of Medicine, Licentiate in Medicine or Surgery, Master in Surgery, Bachelor of Medicine, Doctor, Surgeon, Medical Practitioner, or General Practitioner or Surgeon-Apothecary, or Licentiate or Practitioner in Midwifery, or Professor of Medicine, or Professor of Surgery, or any other medical or surgical title; and every person so offending shall, upon conviction, pay a sum not exceeding twenty pounds. The Scottish Branch Council having considered Clause xxxi of the Medical Act, are of opinion that what is objectionable in it would be obviated were the combination and co-operation of the licensing bodies, as provided for by Clause XIX, encouraged or even made obligatory, so that facilities may be given to medical students for acquiring the complete or double qualification without having to

pass repeated examinations on the same subjects; the Branch Council also consider that it is highly expedient that a Bill for amending the Medical Acts should be submitted to the Home Secretary within two months from the present time, so that it may be introduced into Parliament, and passed into a law during the ensuing session." The Registrar laid on the table the registers of medical students, and intimated that from the number of blanks, it was impossible to frame an accurate register of medical students. The Branch Council resolve to report this to the General Medical Council, as an illustration of the necessity for enabling the Council to issue regulations of a compulsory character.

**DEATHS IN LONDON IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1864.** In the thirteen weeks that ended December 31st, 19,636 deaths were registered in London. In the corresponding quarters of 1860-62, the numbers of deaths were respectively, 15,197, 15,866, 17,717, and 18,557. The increase in the mortality is chiefly found in the local class, 8535 persons having died from the diseases included under that head; in the same period of 1863, 7639 deaths occurred from the same causes, and in 1861 only 6300. Zymotic diseases in the aggregate were not so fatal as in the corresponding quarters of the two preceding years, the numbers in the three quarters being 5055, 5016, and 4847. The most fatal disease in the list is scarlatina, which caused 1095 deaths. 1064 persons have died from typhus, which shows a large increase in the deaths for the years 1860-63, amounting to 311, 624, 796, and 881. Small-pox was fatal in 120 cases, 81 of which were in young persons. Measles in the last quarter of 1861 carried off 171 persons; in the like period of 1862, 900 fell victims to it, and in the quarter which has just terminated it destroyed 638 lives. Hooping-cough proved fatal to 438 children; in the corresponding quarter of 1863 429 deaths were caused by this disease. Erysipelas and metria show an increase. From the former disease 151, and from the latter 82 deaths were registered. In the quarter which ended January 2nd, 1864, 3470 persons died from pulmonary diseases; in the quarter just ended 4467 persons died from the same causes. 2387 persons died from bronchitis, the numbers who died in the like periods of 1860-63 being 1630, 1553, 1760, and 1831. Pneumonia destroyed 1555 lives; the numbers who died in the periods with which the comparison is made were 1250, 979, 1065, and 1193. 1985 deaths occurred from phthisis. In the same quarters of 1860-63 the numbers who fell victims to the disease were 1785, 1840, 1899, and 2066. From diseases of the brain and nervous system 1927 persons died; 119 from cephalitis, 426 from apoplexy, 376 from paralysis, 22 from insanity, 91 from epilepsy, and 678 from convulsions. Diseases of the heart and blood-vessels occasioned 947 deaths. 572 persons lost their lives by accidents, 230 deaths were occasioned by fractures and contusions, 97 by burns or scalds, 47 by drowning, and 127 by suffocation; of these latter, 115 were young persons, 25 cases of murder or manslaughter, and 64 cases of suicide were registered.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. Medical Education in the University of Dublin. By William Stokes, I.L.D., F.R.S. Dublin: 1864.
2. Eighteenth Report of St. Mark's Ophthalmic Hospital. Dublin: 1864.
3. Photographs of Diseases of the Skin. By A. B. Squire, M.B. Nos. v and vi. London: 1864.
4. Town and Village Kitchens for Sick-Poor Cookery. By T. H. Barker, M.D. London: 1864.
5. The Laryngoscope. Two Lectures. By George Johnson, M.D. London: 1864.
6. Quarterly Journal of Science. No. 5.
7. A Few Words on the Choice of a Microscope. By J. J. Plumer, M.A. London: 1865.

## OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

**MONDAY.**.....Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's for Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

**TUESDAY.**....Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

**WEDNESDAY.**...St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.

**THURSDAY.**...St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

**FRIDAY.**.....Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

**SATURDAY.**...St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Lock, Clinical Demonstration and Operations, 1 P.M.—Royal Free, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

## MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

**MONDAY.** Medical Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. James Jones, "Inflammation as an Exciting Cause of Tuberculosis."

**TUESDAY.** Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Dobell, "On the Natural History of Winter Cough"; Mr. T. Longmore, "On Osteo-myelitis consequent on Gun-shot Wounds."

## 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.*

**COMMUNICATIONS.**—To prevent a not uncommon misconception, we beg to inform our correspondents that, as a rule, all communications which are not returned to their authors, are retained for publication.

**CORRESPONDENTS**, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course, not necessarily for publication.

**F. P.**—We should hope that the London College of Physicians will take steps to have their Licence accepted, as far as it is possible, by all bodies that require a double qualification. Some country hospitals require that their house-surgeon should be a licentiate of the Apothecaries' Society as well as a member of the College of Surgeons, in order that pupils may be enabled to serve an apprenticeship within their walls.

**KILLING ANIMALS.**—It is said that animals are sometimes slaughtered at Bootle, near Liverpool, by Messrs. Bain, after Dr. Carson's recommendation; viz., suffocation with carbonic acid.

**PRYCE v. BOWEN.**—The following subscriptions have been further received for Dr. Bowen:—Dr. Call, £1:1; Dr. Purdon, £1:1; Dr. Selwood, £1:1; Dr. Skinner, £2:2; Dr. Dobie, £1:1; Dr. Fenton, £1:1; Dr. Higgins, £5; J. Pennington, Esq., 10s. 6d.; James Rowlands, Esq., £1:1; E. Parker, Esq., £1:1; J. W. Foulkes, Esq. (Chemist), £5; John Green, Esq. (Chemist), 10s. 6d.

**INHERITANCE OR NON-INHERITANCE OF CLEFT-PALATE.**—SIR: In reference to the remarks on the hereditary character of cleft-palate, made by me at the Odontological Society (see BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, December 10th, 1864), allow me to adduce the following case. I saw a patient yesterday with cleft-palate. With some little reluctance, I ascertained that the patient had an aunt, on the father's side, with the same lesion; and that this aunt had an aunt, on the mother's side, who also had a cleft-palate.

I am, etc., EDWIN SERCOMBE.

49, Brook Street, January 1865.

**COMMUNICATIONS** have been received from:—Dr. JAMES RUSSELL; Mr. W. J. TUBBS; Dr. W. H. O. SANKEY; Mr. T. WATKIN WILLIAMS; Dr. B. W. RICHARDSON; Dr. P. M. DUNCAN; THE HON. SECS. OF THE BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH; Mr. PRIDGIN TEALE; Dr. HUTTON; Mr. STONE; Dr. DURANT; Mr. JONATHAN HUTCHINSON; Mr. HARTSHORNE; Mr. FENTEM; Mr. HERBERT BUDD; Mr. MORRIS; Dr. BARCLAY; Dr. GEORGE JOHNSON; A RETIRED SURGEON-MAJOR; Dr. SCHOLFIELD; Dr. J. WARD; THE HON. SECRETARIES OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY; Dr. J. THOMPSON; Mr. BRODHURST; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; and Mr. SERCOMBE.

ESTABLISHED 1848.

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- 1007.—An old established Practice in Cheshire, with the very highest connections. Appointments £60. Income £600. Terms liberal.
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- 1015.—West-end Practice. Income £600. Premium £1,000, with six months' introduction.
- 1017.—Well established Retail, in a fashionable watering-place. Receipts £1,000 a year. Premium one year's purchase; perfectly transferable.
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- 1023.—In Cambridgeshire. £200 a year. Union could be claimed, which would add £100. Premium £100.
- 1027.—Excellent Nucleus in Kent. Returns last quarter £230. Premium £200.
- 1030.—In Northumberland. Income £250. Excellent house. Terms £100.
- 1032.—Country Practice. £250 per annum. Terms £100, by instalments.
- 1033.—Partnership in a Prescribing Practice in the Channel Islands of £630 a year.
- 1041.—In Cheshire, a Partnership. £200 a year guaranteed. Terms £200.
- 1043.—In Staffordshire, a very eligible Death Vacancy. Premium £200.
- 1044.—In Devonshire (with land). Appointments £120. Income £400. Premium £500.
- 1045.—Small Country Practice, with good house. Terms £100 by instalments.
- 1048.—In the West of England. Receipts £450. Appointments £50. Terms £250.
- 1051.—In the Suburbs of London. Income £1200. Appointments £400. Premium £1500.
- 1052.—Partnership in London (S.). Income £850.
- 1053.—Transferable Practice in Yorkshire. Income £250, capable of immediate increase. Terms very liberal.
- 1054.—Partnership in Cheshire. Income £800. Payment in proportion to share.
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- 1057.—Partnership in Wales. Income £400.
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- 1065.—Prescribing Nucleus in a fashionable watering-place in Kent. A good introduction.
- 1066.—Eligible Death Vacancy near Liverpool. To an immediate successor a transfer could be effected upon very advantageous terms; the principal part of payment being by instalments.
- 1068.—Nucleus in Cornwall. Present income £160. Terms £80 and one-fourth of receipts for two years.
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