

Association Intelligence.

BRANCH MEETING TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES. [General.]	Medical Department, Old Library, Birmingham.	Thursday, February 9th, 6 P.M.

MEDICAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

The second meeting of the Directors of the Medical Provident Society was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, London, on Friday, January 27th. There were present: Dr. Richardson, in the chair; Dr. Armstrong (Gravesend); E. Bartleet, Esq. (Camden); R. B. Carter, Esq. (Stroud); Dr. Chevallier (Ipswich); J. Clay, Esq. (Birmingham); Dr. Desmond (Liverpool); Dr. Fayrer (Henley-in-Arden); Dr. Latham (Cambridge); C. F. J. Lord, Esq. (Hampstead); Dr. Morris (Spalding); T. Heckstall Smith, Esq. (St. Mary Cray); Dr. A. P. Stewart (London); H. Veasey, Esq. (Woburn); S. Wood, Esq. (Shrewsbury); and Dr. Henry, Secretary.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Directors were read and confirmed.

Letters stating their inability to attend the meeting were read from Dr. Bryan (Northampton); Dr. Burrows (London); H. D. Carden, Esq. (Worcester); Dr. Collet (Worthing); Dr. Littleton (Saltash); and Dr. Waters (Chester).

The following is a copy of Mr. Carden's letter:—

"Worcester, January 26th, 1865.

"My dear Sir,—I regret very much to say I find it quite impossible to attend the meeting of the Medical Provident Fund tomorrow. I quite coincide with making the Fund open to the profession generally. I wish the allowance per week could be increased to three instead of two guineas. . . . I hope the preliminary fund will soon be raised to £1000 or more. I will find an additional fifty pounds, if ten others will do the same—contingent, of course, on the fact of the Society being established.

"In haste, believe me yours very truly,

"H. D. CARDEN.

"B. W. Richardson, Esq., M.D."

Mr. Carden's letter was very warmly received.

Resignations. Letters of resignation, on the ground of being unable to attend to the duties of directorship, were read from Sir Henry Cooper of Hull and Dr. Sieveking of London.

Mr. CARTER moved, Mr. HECKSTALL SMITH seconded, and it was resolved—

"That the Secretary be requested to give notice to the Metropolitan Counties Branch, and to the East York and North Lincoln Branch, requesting them to fill up the vacancies in their representation at the Board of Directors."

Rules of the Society. The minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee, held on November 18th, at which a draft code of Rules was prepared for the consideration of the present meeting, were read. The Rules having been printed, and a copy forwarded to each Director a month previously to this meeting, it was agreed that they should be taken as read, and discussed *seriatim*.

Mr. CLAY said that, before the rules were discussed, he wished to have the opinion of the meeting as to whether they should be registered under the Friendly Societies' Act. There were several reasons in favour of their being so registered; for example,

legal power was thereby given to the Society to sue and be sued in courts of law; and the safety of its funds was insured. He moved—

"That the Medical Provident Society be registered under the Friendly Societies' Act."

Mr. HECKSTALL SMITH seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. CLAY also moved, Mr. HECKSTALL SMITH seconded, and it was unanimously resolved—

"That the Chairman and Secretary be requested to communicate with the Registrar in reference to the registration of the Society, and to make the necessary alterations in the rules in accordance with the requirements of the Registrar and of the Friendly Societies' Act, provided that these do not interfere with the scheme propounded by the Directors."

The rules were then discussed *seriatim* by the members present, various additions and amendments being made. As they are to be submitted to Mr. Tidd Pratt in accordance with the foregoing resolution, and further consultation with Mr. Finlaison is required in regard to the tables of payments, an outline only of their principal provisions is here given.

The Society is to be denominated "The Medical Provident Society in connection with the British Medical Association"; and may be ordinarily designated "The Medical Provident Society." Its object is to enable certain duly registered medical practitioners to provide, by mutual assurance, for those exigencies of sickness or casualty which render them unable to discharge their professional duties. The Society is to consist of honorary and contributing members. Donors of ten guineas and upwards, being duly registered practitioners, and approved by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee, may become honorary members for life; and shall be eligible to office, but shall not have any claim on the sick fund unless they be also contributing members. The Board of Directors may also confer the title of honorary members on benefactors of the Society, but these shall have no part in the management of the Society nor claim on its funds.

Contributing members are to be duly registered medical practitioners residing in the United Kingdom, and approved by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee, enrolled in the books of the Society as contributors to the sick fund for benefit. They must not be in active service or on full pay in the army or navy. They must be healthy; and must not have any organic disease, or predisposition to periodical or recurring attacks of illness, likely to incapacitate them from discharging their professional duties. A candidate for admission as a contributing member is to be required to fill up an examination paper (resembling those of insurance companies) and to obtain a certificate of health from two registered medical practitioners; and also to sign a declaration of the truth of the statements made on the examination paper. These being found satisfactory, he is to be admitted by the Executive Committee, and duly enrolled. Any contributing member obtaining admission by means of false statements is to be expelled, if the fraud be proved by investigation within twelve months from his admission, and will thereon forfeit all interest in the Society.

The annual contributions are to be paid within a fixed time; and any member not doing so will be suspended from receiving benefit; but the suspension may be removed if the arrears are paid within a certain period, and a certificate of health is produced. Members who have been struck off in consequence of not paying their subscriptions may be again admitted on complying with the rules for original admission.

The funds of the Society are to consist of an Auxiliary Fund; a Sick Fund; and a Management Ex-

pense Fund; of each of which a distinct account is to be kept.

The Auxiliary Fund is to consist of all donations and bequests made to the Society, and of the interest which shall be from time to time received from the investments of the same. This fund is to be under the especial direction and control of the Board of Directors, who are empowered to apply it to increase the Sick Fund, whenever this may be necessary. The Sick Fund is to consist of the contributions of contributing members thereto, as defined in the rules and tables; of the admission fees of those contributing members who join the Society before July 1, 1867, and who at the time of enrolment are above forty-five and under sixty years of age (if, on actuarial advice, it be found advisable to demand such fees); and of the interest which shall be from time to time received from the investments of the same. There are to be three classes of contributors to the Sick Fund; viz., members not exceeding 45 years of age, who are to be entitled to receive benefit during the whole of life; members within the same limit of age, whose subscriptions and benefits are to cease at the age of 65; and members aged between 45 and 60, who may be admitted up to July 1867, and from whom probably an admission fee will be required in addition to the annual subscription.

The Management Expense Fund is to be formed by each contributing member paying an annual sum, to be determined by the Board of Directors.

The Sick Fund, or a competent part thereof, is to be from time to time applied, as occasion shall require, for the benefit of such of the contributing members respectively as shall have conformed to the rules of the Society, and who, suffering from sickness or casualty, may be unable to follow their usual professional occupation; but no member is to be entitled to claim benefit in consequence of infirmity. Every contributing member who has been enrolled a member of this Society upwards of twelve months and who has paid his annual contributions, shall be entitled to receive, during the first twenty-six weeks of his illness, two pounds per week; and if his illness continue longer than twenty-six weeks, he shall then be entitled to receive one pound per week.

Regulations are made for the proceeding to be followed when a contributing member is desirous of recovery of sick pay; also for his periodical visitation by a referee of the Society, if he continue a certain length of time in receipt of pay.

The affairs of the Society are to be managed by a Board of Directors, elected in part by the Committee of Council and the Branches of the British Medical Association, and in part by those members who do not belong to the Association. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are to be elected by the British Medical Association at its annual meeting. The Directors are to hold an annual meeting either in July in each year or at the time and place of the annual meeting of the British Medical Association, and are to meet at such other times as the business of the Society may render necessary. Provision is also made for calling special meetings of the Board. A report is to be presented to the annual meeting of the British Medical Association. The Directors are to elect a Treasurer, Secretary, Trustees, and Auditor; as well as an Executive Committee for carrying on the business of the Society. The special duties of the various officers are defined. Power is given to the Society to appoint agents in such localities as they may think fit; and they are instructed to appoint duly registered practitioners to act as referees in cases demanding inquiry.

Mr. HECKSTALL SMITH proposed, Dr. ARMSTRONG seconded, and it was resolved unanimously—

"That the Rules which have been now adopted be the Rules of the Medical Provident Society, subject to such modifications as may be made by the Chairman and Secretary after consultation with the Registrar of Friendly Societies."

Letter from Mr. Finlaison. The SECRETARY reported that he wrote, on December 9th, to Mr. Finlaison, the Actuary to the National Debt, asking him whether he would consent to revise the Tables of the Society, and also what his fee for doing this would be. In reply, he had received the following letter.

"Old Jewry, City, 15th December, 1864.

"SIR,—Severe domestic affliction has delayed my reply to your letter of the 9th instant. I will most cheerfully render the Medical Provident Fund all the assistance in my power as to their Tables; and with regard to the fee, as the inroad on my time will not be very important, I beg that nothing more may be said on the subject, but that I may be permitted to render the Directors the service you mention without any further question of charge.

"A general respect for the profession, as well as for the laudable object now more particularly held in view, impels me to take this freedom. I trust it will be pardoned.

"I am, sir,

"Yours faithfully,

"ALEXANDER GLEN FINLAISON,

"Actuary to the National Debt.

"Alexander Henry, Esq., M.D."

The SECRETARY also reported that he had on that day received a letter from Mr. Finlaison containing suggestions in reference to the Tables, which would demand further consideration. In the course of his letter, Mr. Finlaison wrote as follows:

"I would be glad, in the interest of the Society, to learn, if possible, that the means could be found of creating some fund in the nature of a reserve, for the purpose of meeting demands which the experience of ordinary provident societies is not accustomed to anticipate, but which may arise out of the associated risks of a body of professional men, whose sense of duty and undaunted courage every day leads them to face dangers from which the common run of people reasonably shrink with the utmost dread."

Dr. CHEVALLIER moved, Mr. CLAY seconded, and it was unanimously resolved—

"That the Board of Directors of the Medical Provident Society desire to express to A. G. Finlaison, Esq., their cordial appreciation of the kind feeling expressed by him towards the medical profession and this Society; and to thank him sincerely for the valuable assistance he has consented to render them in the revision of the Tables of Annual Payments, and for his liberality in offering to perform this labour without expense to the funds of the Society.

"That Mr. Finlaison be elected an Honorary Member of the Society.

"That he be requested to accept the office of Consulting Actuary to the Society.

"That Mr. Finlaison's letter be entered on the minutes."

The CHAIRMAN, in putting the resolution to the vote, said that he could not fail to express, in the name not only of the Directors but of the many other supporters of the Society, the pleasure that was felt in giving such an expression of thanks to the distinguished actuary, Mr. Finlaison. He (the Chairman) had been apprised that a fee of one hundred guineas would have been considered a fair sum for the services of Mr. Finlaison, which had been so kindly offered. This was a great boon; but the way in which the offer was made was the most pleasing part of it. A letter couched in more delicate and generous language was rarely seen. It was a compliment to

the profession altogether, and would be long remembered. [*Hear, hear.*]

Vote of Thanks to Mr. Clay. The SECRETARY called the attention of the Board to the fact, that very valuable assistance had been rendered to the Executive Committee by Mr. Clay, who had kindly drawn up a code of rules for their consideration, and had thereby relieved his colleagues, and especially the Chairman and Secretary, from much trouble and anxiety.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Clay. He said that, but for the industry and the accurate knowledge of Mr. Clay, the Rules that had been drawn up and adopted that day could hardly by this time have been prepared. It was but to express the opinion of the whole Board to move, as a resolution,

"That the sincere thanks of the Board of Directors be given to John Clay, Esq., for the valuable assistance which he afforded the Executive Committee by drawing up a draft code of Rules and Tables for their consideration."

Mr. HECKSTALL SMITH seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Treasurer. Dr. CHEVALLIER moved, Dr. ARMSTRONG seconded, and it was resolved—

"That Dr. Westall be elected Treasurer of the Society."

Executive Committee. On the motion of Dr. CHEVALLIER, seconded by Dr. ARMSTRONG, the Executive Committee was appointed, to consist of the same members as before.

Secretary. Mr. CLAY proposed, Mr. HECKSTALL SMITH seconded, and it was resolved—

"That Dr. Henry be appointed Secretary, and that his salary be at the rate of £100 *per annum.*"

It was also resolved that the Treasurer be empowered to pay the Secretary his salary for the past quarter; and that the sum of Ten Pounds be advanced to him from the auxiliary funds for incidental expenses.

A vote of thanks was given to the Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN, in acknowledging the vote, said he was more than compensated by the success of the Society up to the present time. He had not anticipated so much success; neither was he aware, until the project had ripened into action, that the want of a Medical Provident Society was so keenly felt by the profession. They had but to hold on as they had begun, and one of the most useful and important medical societies of England would soon be in active operation.

The meeting then adjourned, after a continuous sitting of seven hours.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE third ordinary meeting of the session of the above Branch was held on Wednesday, January 25th, in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton; R. W. FALCONER, M.D., President, in the chair. There were present forty-two members and visitors.

The minutes of the previous ordinary meeting were read and confirmed.

New Members. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Parent Association and of the Branch: James Douglas Harington, M.B. (Bath); Charles S. Bayliffe, Esq. (Chippenham); Henry Freeman, Esq. (Bath); Charles Vernon Hitchins, Esq. (Weston-super-Mare); G. F. Atchley, M.B. (Bristol); William Cooper, Esq. (Bristol).

The Medical Provident Society. Dr. MARSHALL proposed that the election of a Director of the Medical Provident Fund, in the room of Dr. Budd, who had resigned, be deferred until the annual meeting of the Branch; which was unanimously agreed to.

Union Medical Officers. Dr. COLBORNE (Chippenham) submitted the following petition to the House of Commons on the question of the remuneration of the Poor-law Unions; and proposed that the same be signed by the members of the Bath and Bristol Branch of the British Medical Association, and when so signed be forwarded to Mr. Henry Berkeley, M.P. for Bristol, and Mr. Tite, M.P. for Bath, for presentation to the House of Commons; and that the President (Dr. Falconer) be requested to communicate with the Committee of Council on the subject of the petition.

"To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

"The humble petition of the Members of the Bath and Branch of the British Medical Association,

"SHEWETH,—That, in the opinion of your petitioners, the present administration of the Poor Laws acts most injuriously towards the members of the medical profession throughout England and Wales, and especially towards such members of the medical profession as are engaged in the attendance upon and care of the sick poor.

"That such members of the medical profession have been compelled to accept salaries or remuneration much below the value of their services, which is a hardship inflicted upon the medical profession.

"That the present administration of the Poor Laws often impedes the members of the medical profession in the proper and conscientious performance of their duties towards the sick poor.

"That it is highly unsatisfactory that there is not any competent medical superintendence of the medical relief to the poor, nor a competent body to assess the true value of the services rendered by the medical profession.

"Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray your honourable House to cause a searching inquiry to be made into the subject of the medical relief of the poor; and that your petitioners may have the opportunity afforded them of laying their grievances before you; and that they may have such relief as your honourable House sees fit.

"And your petitioners will ever pray, etc."

This proposition was carried unanimously; and the petition received a large number of signatures.

Papers. The following papers were read and discussed.

1. On Excision of the Wrist-Joint. By R. W. Coe, Esq.

2. A Case of Fungus Hæmatodes of the Eyeball. By F. Mason, Esq.

3. Case of Rupture of the Uterus. By J. G. Swayne, M.D.

4. An instrument for controlling hæmorrhage in operations on the lips (hare-lip, cancer of the lip, etc.) was exhibited by A. Prichard, Esq.

Other papers had to be postponed till the next ordinary meeting.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. Professor Huxley, F.R.S., will deliver the first lecture of his course, consisting of twenty-four, on the structure and classification of the Mammalia, in continuation of the course of last year, on Monday next, in the theatre of the College of Surgeons.

ployed in these inoculations was pus from suppurating or soft sores, and not the secretion from indurated or infecting sores.

Had the latter been employed, my patient would probably have returned from Norway with a disease which he had not when he left England.

I am, etc., HENRY LEE.

Savile Row, January 28th, 1865.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND. The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on January 24th.

Bell, William, Uppingham
Brady, John, Belfast
Clements, George, Brixham, Devon
Dixon, George, Penrith, Cumberland
Edgelow, Thomas, Teignmouth, Devon
Farrington, Anthony Charles, Ottery St. Mary, Devon
Fennie, James, Kimbolton, Hunts
Griffith, Griffith, Edeyrn, near Pwllheli, North Wales
Hulme, Samuel James, Bowdon, Cheshire
Hiffe, Charles Webb, Coventry
Logg, Robert Duncan, Calcutta
Lupton, Richard John, Bradford, Yorkshire
Pearson, Henry, Manchester
Powell, Richard Douglas, St. John's Wood
Rogers, George Arthur, Commercial Road
Stokes, George, Hanley, Staffordshire
Sutton, Frederick, County Asylum, Norwich
Taylor, James, Chapel-en-le-Frith
Webb, George Fortescue, Exeter
Webster, Thomas James, Conway, North Wales
Whipp, Robert, Bowdon, Cheshire
Wilson, David, Carmoney, co. Antrim
Wilson, Thomas, Darlington

Admitted on January 25th—

Archer, Herbert Ray, Montagu Street, Portman Square
Armitage, Frederick William, Louth, Lincolnshire
Pott, Charles Glen, Brentford
Broom, Charles, Llanelly, South Wales
Cox, Pierre Georges, Mauritius
Davies, Evan Parry, Denbigh
Grealy, Francis, Galway
Howse, Henry Greenway, Liverpool
Hewes, William Lewis, Llandudno, North Wales
Macaulay, James Campbell, Leicester
Murray, Septimus Henry Liddle, Newcastle
Samuels, Henry George, Liverpool
Stirling, William Boughton, Whitechapel Street
Walker, Henry George, Great Russell Street
Wallbridge, John Smith, Demerara
Williams, Owen Thomas, Bangor, North Wales
Wood, Miles Astman, Ledbury, Hereford
Wykes, Edwin, Birmingham

Admitted on January 26th—

Adrien, Edward William, Old Town, co. Dublin
Anningson, Bushell, Hampstead
Charlton, Alfred, Tunbridge
Cheate, Edward, Tamworth
Child, Edwin, Vernham, Andover
Cotter, Arundel Hill, Cork
Curtis, Charles Edwin, Yatley, Hants
Downman, Joseph Rymer, New Zealand
Drummond, Edward, Blyth, Northumberland
Grimes, John, Castle Thorpe, Bucks
Howes, Frank Charles Plumtre, Great Yarmouth
Jacques, John Thomas, Birstall, Leicestershire
Jeffreys, Richard, Chesterfield
Morgan, William John, Burwood Place, Edgware Road
Murray, John, Aberdeen
Orme, Robert, Instow, North Devon
Parkinson, Richard Colville, Guildford
Purcell, Ferdinand Albert, Cork
Shaw, James, Handsworth
Taylor, Arthur, Kennington

Admitted on January 27th—

Armistead, John William, Leeds
Bryan, John Morgan, Northampton
Clayworth, Charles Creasey, Spilsby
Gosselin, William, Cavan, Ireland
Kilroy, Mark Antony, Virginia, co. Cavan
Neate, Charles Pitt Wetherell, Powey, Cornwall
Redwood, Thomas Hall, Rhymney, Monmouthshire
Shedd, Ebenezer, Montreal

Naval Surgeons. At a meeting of the Court, on January 24th, the following gentlemen passed their examinations for Naval Surgeons.

Bellamy, George, Haslar Hospital, Gosport
MacLaurin, Henry Normand, Greenwich Hospital
Slaughter, Charles Henry, H.M.S. *Royal Adelaide*

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On January 26th, 1865, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Broom, Charles, City Road
Hedley, John, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Renton, William Matthew, Shotley Bridge, Durham
Watson, George Henry, Jersey
Wilford, John George Frederick, Brompton, Yorkshire

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

Shedd, Ebenezer, Manchester

APPOINTMENTS.

*WADE, W. F., M.B., M.R.C.P., elected Physician to the Birmingham General Hospital, *vice* *James Johnstone, M.D., resigned.

ARMY.

BARROW, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon T. S., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 23rd Foot, *vice* J. Greig, M.B.
DAVENPORT, Assistant-Surgeon C. J., M.D., 6th Dragoon Guards, to be Staff-Assistant-Surgeon, *vice* T. P. Flynn.
GREIG, Assistant-Surgeon J., M.B., 33rd Foot, to be Assistant-Surgeon Royal Artillery, *vice* G. D. Milne, M.D.
HANNAN, Staff-Surgeon J., to be Surgeon Royal Artillery.
LANDALE, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon J., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 6th Dragoon Guards, *vice* C. J. Davenport, M.D.
WOODS, Staff-Surgeon D., to be Surgeon 107th Foot.

ROYAL NAVY.

HILL, George B., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Osborne*.
MURPHY, Alexander, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Cumberland*.
WIMBERLEY, C. C., M.D., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Euryalus*.

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

DEANS, J., Esq., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 37th Kent R.V.
FISHER, L., M.D., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 29th Lancashire R.V.
SHAW, H., M.D., to be Surgeon 1st Devonshire R.V.
WINTERBOTHAM, L., Esq., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 13th Gloucestershire R.V.
WOOD, H. B., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 5th Administrative Battalion Kent R.V.

DEATHS.

ABBOTT, Charles T., Esq., Surgeon 39th Regiment, at Aldershot, aged 35, on February 2.
*BARTLETT, Jacob Dickford, Esq., at Teignmouth, aged 72, on January 17.
BURROUGHS. On January 28th, at Lee, aged 44, Mary Ann Julia, wife of J. T. R. Burroughs, Esq., Surgeon.
CLARKE, Charles H., M.D., at Stonyhurst, aged 49, on January 14.
FALCONER, Hugh, A.M., M.D., at 21, Park Crescent, Portland Place, on January 31, aged 56.
MERYON. On December 21st, 1864, at North End, Fulham, Eliza, wife of Charles L. Meryon, M.D.
REECE. On January 12th, aged 6, Lydia Florence, youngest child of the late *George Reece, Esq., of 45, Sussex Gardens.
SCHNYLER, Allen P., M.D., at East Budleigh, Devon, on Jan. 16.
SHUTTER. On January 10th, at Gravesend, aged 71, Catherine E., wife of Thomas Shutter, M.D., of Southampton.
SILVER, William, M.D., at Clifton, aged 85, on January 19.
SMYTHE, William D., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, Royal Artillery, at Calcutta, aged 27, on December 13, 1864.
WRENTMORE, John, Esq., Surgeon, aged 74, on January 18.

PROFESSOR SYME has been appointed one of the Examiners of the College of Veterinary Surgeons of Scotland.

PROFESSOR CHELIUS has resigned the Professorship of Surgery in the University of Heidelberg, which he has held for fifty-two years.

DR. LYONS has resigned his seat for the city of Cork, though earnestly entreated to retain it till the next general election.

IRIDECTOMY IN DUBLIN. In the eighteenth report of St. Mark's Ophthalmic Hospital we note that amongst the list of operations on the eye iridectomy does not occur.

A MEDICAL MAGISTRATE. The Lord Chancellor has recently placed W. H. Ackland, M.D., on the Commission of the Peace for the borough of Bideford, North Devon.

HEALTH OF SCOTLAND. During the month of December 1864, there were registered in the eight principal towns of Scotland the births of 3,139 children, of whom 1,599 were males and 1,540 females. Of these 2,856 were legitimate and 283 illegitimate, indicating a proportion of one illegitimate in every 11·0 births. The proportion of illegitimate births was lowest in Greenock, where it was 4·8 per cent., while in Aberdeen 18·3 per cent. of the births were illegitimate. Eight hundred and eighty-four marriages were registered in the eight towns during the month, being by far the highest number registered in December during the nine previous years. The deaths of 2,411 persons were registered. Allowing for increase of population, the deaths would be the exact average of the corresponding period during the nine preceding years. Forty-four per cent. of the deaths were of children under five years of age. In Aberdeen the proportion was 10 per cent. below this average, and in Dundee the average was exceeded by seven per cent. The zymotic class of diseases proved fatal to 756 persons, or 31 per cent. of the deaths. Typhus fever was the most fatal epidemic; it caused 244 deaths, or 10·1 per cent. of the whole deaths. In Glasgow the proportion of deaths from typhus was 11·7 per cent.; in Paisley, 12·5; and in Greenock, 20·1 per cent. This is the most severe epidemic of typhus fever experienced in Scotland for many years. Scarlatina caused 153 deaths; measles, 102; hooping-cough 89; small-pox 15; diarrhoea and dysentery, 31; diphtheria, 30; croup, 47; metria, 9; erysipelas, 13; apoplexy, 23; paralysis, 52; diseases of the heart, 92; inflammatory affections of the respiratory organs, 402; bronchitis, 276; consumption, 222. Seven of the persons who died (one male and six females) had exceeded the age of 90 years; the two eldest (females) were aged 95 years respectively.

THE LATE DR. BAIKIE, THE AFRICAN EXPLORER. The *Orkney Herald* gives an obituary notice of Dr. Baikie, who was a native of Kirkwall. About the age of 16 Dr. Baikie proceeded to the University of Edinburgh for the purpose of studying medicine, and passed through the regular curriculum. From respect to one of his teachers there he gave the name of Mount Christison to a lofty hill along the reaches of the Binue. Natural history was one of his favourite studies; and in 1848, at the close of his University curriculum, there was issued from the press *A Catalogue of the Mammalia and Birds observed in the Orkney Islands*, by Messrs. W. B. Baikie and Robert Heddle. It was soon after the publication of this little treatise that Dr. Baikie obtained an appointment in the Royal Navy. Dr. Baikie's first experiences as an African explorer were given to the world in a volume, entitled *Narrative of an Exploring Voyage up the rivers Kwora and Binue (commonly known as the Niger and Tsadda)* in 1854. The expedition mainly owed its success to Dr. Baikie's energy and ability. . . . Dr. Baikie visited his friends in Orkney after his first expedition. In 1856 the narrative of his exploration was published, and he seems immediately to have set his whole heart upon returning to Africa. An opportunity soon presented itself. He left Kirkwall in March 1857, and immediately afterwards embarked for Africa. In his second expedition up the Niger, which was destined to extend over the lengthened period of eight years, he was accompanied at first by Lieutenant H. Glover, R.N. Dr. Baikie's aim, in exiling himself for so many years in Central Africa, was to become thoroughly acquainted with the people

and the trading capabilities of the country. For this purpose he established his head-quarters chiefly at Leukoja, on the banks of the Niger, near the confluence of the Tsadda; but he also went occasionally several hundreds of miles inland to Soccata and other places, where he could have no communication from England, and could only himself seize every rare chance of sending letters to this country by caravans crossing the desert of Tripoli. Letters from England, when they reached him, were sometimes a year old.

PRACTICAL DIETARY. Dr. Edward Smith has just published a volume called *Practical Dietary for Families, Schools, and the Labouring Classes*. Dr. Smith urges the distribution among the poor of handbills with the heading, "The Cheapest and Best Kinds of Food;" and he supplies the contents. Amongst his directions are such sentences as the following:—"If you are very poor, spend nearly all your money on bread. Bread and milk porridge make the best breakfast for husband, wife, and children. Butter-milk is a very good and cheap food. Whey is food, and is a much better drink than water or beer. Every member of the family should, if possible, have two pints of new milk, skim milk, or buttermilk, daily. With plenty of bread and milk there will probably be health and strength, and no doctors' bills. When you can buy Indian corn meal you will find it a stronger and cheaper food than flour. Potatoes are the best of all garden vegetables. Tea is a very dear food. If you are very poor, do not buy any tea, but spend your money in bread and skim milk. When you cannot obtain sufficient milk, and must drink tea, let it be weak, and add as much milk as you can to it; but it is then better to make broth for breakfast and dinner. Hot food is both more agreeable and digestible than cold food. Children, old and feeble people, need hot food more than strong adults. When you are very poor, and have not enough to eat, do not drink cold fluids." The teetotallers may like to know that Dr. Smith is convinced that the use of wine is quite unnecessary in the ordinary conditions of health, and that all the elements which give value to wine, except the alcohol, which has been added to it, are found equally in the so-called light wines and the strong wines of Spain and Portugal; and hence ordinary claret is quite as valuable to the system under numerous conditions both of health and disease as port or sherry. With regard to beer he says: "Whilst we cannot deny to beers the position of foods, it may be doubted whether they are necessary ones, and whether others cannot be found which offer the same advantages at a less cost. It is impossible to regard them as economical foods, whilst as medicinal agents they may have much value, and as luxurious foods they may supply a want in the present state of society." (*Daily News*.)

A STUDENTS' ROW AT VIENNA. A misunderstanding has arisen between the professors and students at the University of Vienna. The arbitrary proceedings of the Rector Magnificus (Hyrtl) and his learned coadjutors led to a great academical uprising on the 17th January. Many months ago it was resolved that the 500th anniversary of the establishment of the University should be celebrated on March 12th, that being the day on which the University was founded by Rudolph III, Duke of Austria. As the Austrian Revolution of 1848 began on March 12th and 13th, the government expressed disapproval of the resolution taken by the students, and proposed instead August 8th. The committee elected by the students for the management of the festival publicly protested against the change of day, and then declared that they had ceased to be in office. For this "act of insubordination" the twelve members of the committee

were summoned to appear before the Consistory. On the 17th ult., the offenders made their appearance in the Consistorial Hall, in which sat the Rector Magnificus (the renowned pathologist, Dr. Hyrtl), Messrs. Arnsts, Späth, and Miklosich (the Deans of the Faculties of Law, Medicine, and Philosophy), and an academic notary. When the members of the committee entered the hall, so many of their fellow students went in with them that the beades found it difficult to close the doors. Professor Arnsts said that they had "offended against the discipline of the University." While he was speaking the students outside, who were in great force, shouted "Vivat!" "Bravo!" and "Hoch!" so loudly that Professor Späth left the hall in order to request them to be less demonstrative. As soon as the door was opened the students forced their way into the room, which was soon so densely filled that it was not possible to continue the proceedings. It must be supposed that the Rector got nervous, for he promised the intruders that their colleagues should not be subjected to punishment of any kind if they would consent to leave the room. On hearing this the young men retired with loud cries of "Bravo Hyrtl!" The students expressed their resolve not to take a part in the jubilee unless it be held on March 12th. A long conversation then ensued between the professors and their disciples, and it ended by Dr. Hyrtl's promising to see what could be done. When the doors of the hall were opened the Rector Magnificus and the members of the committee were hoisted on to the shoulders of students, and borne in triumph to the University. Dean Späth was loudly cheered by the students, who were about 2,800 in number, but Arnsts and Miklosich were greeted with hisses and deafening cries of "Pereat! Pereat!" The young men then took some refreshment at Dreher's new "beer hall," and then proceeded *in corpore* to Dr. Hyrtl's residence. The professor begged the students to return quietly to their homes, and promised to exert himself to the utmost to bring about a satisfactory solution of the question at issue. Formerly Hyrtl was a highly popular man in the scientific world, but recently he has become an object of suspicion to his colleagues and disciples, because he curries favour with the Ultramontane party. There are about seventy professors at the University, and fifty-eight of them take the same view of what may be called the "anniversary question" as the students. The young men see that the Ultramontanists are straining every nerve in order to increase their influence in Austria, and they are determined to thwart them in their efforts to get the University under their rule. The *Wien Med. Woch.* writes thus of the above affair. The proceedings at the University are not satisfactory. His magnificence Professor Hyrtl is not lucky in his new charge; and he has only himself to thank for it. His famous Rectorial Discourse lost him the sympathies of the scientific world; and his weak temporising proceedings in this students' affair has disgusted his colleagues in the Consistory.

BAD AIR. At the request of the Royal Commission which has recently reported on the condition of the Cornish and other metalliferous mines, Dr. Angus Smith examined the quality of the air which the miners have to breathe, to the impurity of which is chiefly attributable the early break-down in their strength. A healthy atmosphere may be taken to be one with 20.9 per cent. of oxygen, and .04 per cent. of carbonic acid gas. Late in the evening in the pit of London minor theatres as much as 0.252 and 0.330 per cent. of carbonic acid has been found; but the average of above 300 samples of air taken from these mines had 0.785. Two-thirds of the samples presented an atmo-

sphere exceedingly bad, and the worst parts of the mines had only about 18.69 per cent. of oxygen, and as much as 1.8 or more of carbonic acid, in one instance 2.26 per cent. In order to test the effects of such bad air, Dr. Angus Smith caused to be constructed a small close chamber of lead, with windows sufficiently large that they might in any emergency be broken through for a way of escape. The first trial was made by sitting down in the chamber for an hour and forty minutes. This produced about 1 per cent. of carbonic acid, and the air became cheerless. A young lady was anxious to be in the chamber when the air was such that candles would not burn. She was not much struck by the impurity of the air on entering, although the candles were threatening to go out; there was not quite 19 per cent. of oxygen, and there was rather more than two per cent. of carbonic acid. No one had been breathing in the chamber, so that organic matter from the person was absent, and that makes a great difference. She stood five minutes perfectly well, making light of the difficulty, but suddenly became white and could not come out without help. On another occasion a still greater amount of carbonic acid was present in the chamber, but it was not accompanied with a corresponding loss of oxygen, for the gas was driven in upon pure air; there was 20.19 per cent. of oxygen, with 3.84 of carbonic acid. Two persons got headache instantly, and were unable to stay above seven or eight minutes. Dr. Smith stayed about twenty minutes, but felt very anxious to get out, as his movements were made with great haste, and both mind and body betrayed symptoms of feverish activity. The face was flushed, and the lungs acted more rapidly than usual. In fact there was a burning haste to live, as if life were afraid of being put out. It seems to him impossible to endure 4 per cent. of carbonic acid for any length of time. There was a very remarkable lowering of the pulse, and as this happened regularly he puts it down as the result of poisoning with carbonic acid gas, and asks whether it may not suggest a mode of lowering the pulse in fever. These experiments show the great mischief that must arise from the impure, unwholesome air in metalliferous mines. The men call it "thin," "poor," "dead;" the effect is slow poisoning. The explosions of gunpowder produce sulphide of potassium, the effect of which is probably like that of sulphide of hydrogen, but from its acting more slowly there is distributed over a long period that death which might ensue instantly, and so, in chemical phrase, the effect is dissolved in health, and becomes disease. Gun-cotton seems to promise to perform the work of blasting with less injurious influence upon the air. In the coal districts, where, on account of the dangerous gases, great attention has been given to the proper ventilation of the mines, the mortality (accidents excepted) is considerably less than in the metalliferous districts, and this shows that the excessive mortality in the latter is not caused by the mere working underground in dark galleries. Dr. Smith touches incidentally in his report upon various points of practical importance. He notices the purifying effect of rain upon the air, of which there was such a scarcity last year. Moisture with a high temperature is oppressive, but moisture with a lower temperature improves the air, and he holds that cold and moisture in such amounts as those in which they are found in Great Britain are capable of producing powerful constitutions, and that the more watery districts of the kingdom present in many instances the most healthy spots. Still, in relation to ventilation, he notes that "chemical action, and with it the feelings demand a certain amount of warmth first and above all things. No function can go on without it. You may live

hours, days, or years in badly ventilated places with more or less discomfort and danger, but a draught of cold air may kill like a sword. In railway carriages, and in houses also, the great instinct of man is first to be warm enough, and he is quite right. Such a universal instinct must not be sneered at."

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. Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Structure and Classification of the Mammalia."—Epidemiological Society, 8 P.M. Dr. Babington, F.R.S., "Suggestions for the Diminution of Venereal Disease among the Civil Population."—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. E. Symes Thompson, "Notes on Cases of Tumour in the Mediastinum"; Mr. Teevan, "On Certain Fractures of the Skull."
TUESDAY. Pathological Society of London, 8 P.M.
WEDNESDAY. Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Structure and Classification of the Mammalia."—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Henry Smith, Lettsomian Lectures on the Surgery of the Rectum. Lecture I, "On Some Points connected with Fistula in Ano."
FRIDAY. Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Structure and Classification of the Mammalia."

REGISTRATION OF DISEASE.

MONTHLY RETURN of new cases of disease coming under treatment at Pauper and Public Institutions. (A.) In Manchester and Salford (Sanitary Association). (B.) At Preston (R. C. Brown, Esq.). (C.) At St. Marylebone, London (Dr. Whitmore).

5 weeks ending December 31, 1864.

	A.	B.	C.
Small-Pox	109	—	5
Chicken-Pox	9	5	9
Measles	95	15	128
Scarlatina	59	61	45
Diphtheria	—	—	7
Whooping-Cough	34	4	75
Croup	4	1	6
Diarrhoea	127	32	356
Dysentery	29	4	3
Erysipelas	31	2	23
Insanity	1210	48	1291
Bronchitis and Catarrh	107	11	50
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	—	—	4
Carbuncle	—	—	3705
Accidents and other diseases ..	5309	no return	—
Totals	7225	—	5823

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. HENRY MARSHALL; Dr. DURRANT; Dr. W. H. O. SANKEY; Dr. B. W. RICHARDSON; Dr. HARDIE; Mr. T. M. STONE; Mr. REGINALD HARRISON; Dr. BARCLAY; Mr. RHODES; THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY; Mr. J. JAMES; Dr. GEORGE JOHNSON; THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY; Mr. W. R. HUGHES; Mr. A. RANSOME; Dr. JOHN THOMPSON; Dr. SCHOLFIELD; Dr. W. H. ACKLAND; Mr. PRIDGIN TEALE; Mr. J. H. HAMMOND; Mr. J. N. RADCLIFFE; Dr. FITZPATRICK; Mr. J. SADLER; Mr. RICHARD WILDING; Dr. WILLIAM NEWMAN, THE HON. SECRETARIES OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; Mr. W. N. HIRON; and F.R.C.P.

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.

NON-MERCURIAL TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS.—SIR: In answer to the inquiries of Dr. Fox, concerning the cases published in the JOURNAL on December 24th, 1864, as to whether they are strictly within the limits of the non-mercurial treatment, I must say that I consider they are. The ointment used in Cases I and II was merely as a local application, not to produce any effect upon the system; the patients used about one ounce a week, and it contained six grains of the nitric oxide of mercury. In Case III, the child had been under treatment before it was brought to me; and instead of improving, it was gradually losing ground: it soon rallied on the non-mercurial treatment. Allow me to add another case, that of J. R., aged 5 weeks (third child). The father informed me that his two previous children had suffered from the same disease. They had been treated with grey powder and blue ointment; both died. Upon examining this infant, I found that it had syphilitic psoriasis on the buttocks and testicles, an ulcer at the anus, and snuffles, and was pale and emaciated. I ordered it, on Oct. 11th, two grains of chlorate of potash three times a day; and on Nov. 1st, it was discharged cured.

I have treated upwards of thirty cases by the non-mercurial treatment with the most favourable results; and will publish them *in extenso* in the JOURNAL, if you wish. I will refer Dr. Fox to a letter of mine, published in the JOURNAL on June 24th, 1864, for three more cases, treated without mercury.

I am, etc.,

R. WILLIAM DUNN.

13, Surrey Street, W.C., January 25th, 1865.

THE POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE.—SIR: One who has known from childhood what work our law really is, hardly needs an apology for speaking out when occasion tempts. As the eldest son of a medical family, whose parent was Poor-law Medical Officer, or, in more intelligible language, the parish doctor, during the thirty-three years he spent in a laborious country practice, I feel I have an Englishman's right to a simple hearing on the case of Timothy Daly. Punch has exhausted my argument on behalf of the Poor-law profession, in to-day's issue. To endorse his views, and encourage the indomitable Richard Griffin—whose effigy ought to adorn the entrance of every workhouse—I send you a copy of a paper I was compelled to print, in self-defence, when assailed by the Leicester Guardians and their clerk some years ago. The facts contained in the paper are indisputable, and, I think, appropriate to the *in memoriam* tablet of Timothy Daly and his aggrieved medical advisers. I am, etc., JOHN A. BOLTON, M.D. Leicester, January 28th, 1865.

PRYCE v. BOWEN.—SIR: I wish to inform the members of the medical profession that sufficient contributions have been raised to enable Dr. Bowen to defray the legal expenses incurred by the late trial, "Pryce v. Bowen." I am, etc.,

H. D. SCHOLFIELD, M.D., Treasurer.

14, Hamilton Square, January 31st, 1865.

Further contributions to the "Bowen Fund":—Preston (per Dr. Hammond), £17:10:6; Dr. Waters (Chester), £5:5:5; Dr. Stevenson (Birkenhead), £5; Mr. Mullock, Chemist (Birkenhead), 10s. 6d.; J. Boufflower, Esq. (Manchester), £1:1.

SIR: I shall feel greatly obliged if you will allow the following additional list of subscribers to the "Bowen Fund" to appear in this week's JOURNAL. I am, etc., J. H. HAMMOND.

Winkley Square, Preston, January 31st, 1865.

James Hall, Esq. (Preston), £1:1; W. H. Spencer, Esq. (Preston), £1:1; E. L. Dixon, Esq. (Preston), £1:1; Dr. Arminson (Preston), 10s. 6d.; Dr. Marshall (Preston), 10s. 6d.; J. Rigby, Esq. (Preston), 10s.; Dr. Gradwell (Lytham), 10s. 6d.

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