

CARDINAL WISEMAN'S ILLNESS.

OUR readers have lately seen daily accounts in the papers of the illness of Cardinal Wiseman; and may be interested to know what was the nature of the disease which of late so gradually and almost imperceptibly carried him off. It is, we understand, a fact that at least twelve years ago the presence of sugar was discovered in his urine, and ever since then he has been the subject of diabetes. In 1860, his health seriously failed him, and he was seized with symptoms of great prostration and weakness of the heart. He also, at this time, was troubled with carbuncles; but, after a journey to Rome, was gradually restored to something of his previous state under the care of his ordinary medical adviser, Mr. Charles Hawkins. Shortly before last Christmas, he discovered two "blisters" on his foot. These blisters were, in fact, signs of his weak circulation; and, eventually, the surface of the skin where affected sloughed. The sloughs, under a nourishing diet, completely healed; but signs of general prostration supervened. He felt himself that he was very seriously ill; and for many hours during one particular night was insensible, and was restored apparently by the abundant administration of stimulants. His pulse was slow, and very weak; but no signs of any organic disease of any organ of his body could be diagnosed. His death, in truth, seemed to be brought about by a very slow failure of his weakened heart. Shortly before his death, he was again attacked by erysipelas of the head and face, followed by the formation of a carbuncle on the forehead.

The Cardinal died in his sixty-second year. It is curious to note that, when he was quite a young man, he was copiously bled in Rome for "consumption", as it was alleged; and that it is thought his life was then saved by his having been carried off from the hands of the Italian doctors by some English friends.

One interesting fact may be added, and it is this: that no attention has been paid by him to following out what may be called a diabetic diet. He has, we believe, all along lived as a person not affected with the disease. In his case, therefore, the advantages of a strict and painful diabetic diet are not illustrated.

No *post mortem* examination was made; but it was, we understand, distinctly ascertained by Mr. Charles Hawkins, Dr. Munk, and his other medical attendants, that, up to the very time of his death, neither his lungs nor any of the organs of his body showed any deviation from health, except in the way above spoken of.

DR. DEMMÉ, concerned in the Trumpy-Demmé tragedy, is Dr. Hermann Demmé the author of a work on military surgery, for which he collected the material during the late Italian war. He has, besides, written an essay on Osteomyelitis, part of which appeared in the columns of this journal, translated by Dr. Bauer, of Brooklyn. (*Phil. Med. and Sur. Rep.*)

Association Intelligence.

BRANCH MEETING TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
NORTH WALFS. [Intermediate.]	Dr. Roberts's, Hafod Elwy, St. Asaph.	Friday, February 24, 1 P.M.

MEDICAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

THE following contributions have been made towards the Auxiliary Fund.

	£.	s.	d.
Amount already announced	615	12	0
<i>Bedfordshire:</i>			
H. Veasey, Esq. (Woburn), additional	5	5	0
<i>Devonshire:</i>			
Plymouth Medical Society (per Dr. Cookworthy, Treasurer)	10	0	0
<i>Lancashire:</i>			
Dr. Desmond (Liverpool)	3	3	0
Dr. Dickinson (Liverpool)	5	0	0
T. Howitt, Esq. (Lancaster)	5	5	0
W. M'Cheane, Esq. (Liverpool)	1	1	0
W. H. Manifold, Esq. (Liverpool)	1	1	0
<i>Middlesex:</i>			
Dr. E. S. Willett (Isleworth)	1	1	0
<i>Shropshire:</i>			
Samuel Wood, Esq. (Shrewsbury)	5	0	0
<i>Suffolk:</i>			
W. E. Image, Esq. (Bury St. Edmunds)	5	5	0
<i>Wales:</i>			
Dr. Dyster (Tenby)	10	10	0

Further contributions will be announced. Gentlemen desirous of contributing to the Auxiliary 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, 18th February, 1865.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES
BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

AN ordinary meeting of this Branch was held Feb. 9th; JAMES RUSSELL, M.D., President-elect, in the chair. Fifteen members were also present.

Paper. The following paper was read: Two Cases of Obstructed Labour. By S. Berry, Esq. Mr. Clay, Dr. Earle, and Messrs. Yates and Downes, took part in the discussion.

New Members. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Branch: John Bassett, Esq., Hockley; J. D. Scurrah, M.D., Birmingham; T. Birt, M.D., Leamington; G. E. Hyde, Esq., Worcester.

THE LATE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND was a Fellow of the Royal Society, of the Society of Antiquaries, of the Royal Geographical Society, and a member of the Royal Astronomical and other learned societies. He was also a munificent supporter of many of our charitable institutions; was president of the Westminster and Middlesex Hospitals, vice-patron of Charing Cross Hospital, president of the Seamen's Hospital Society, president of the Westminster General Dispensary, vice-president of the Royal Humane Society. His Grace was also president of the Royal United Service Institution, president of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, a director of the British Institution, and a trustee of the British Museum.

In the third paragraph of his letter, Professor Simpson implies that I am anxious to reject the case in question only because it was completely cured (?) by syphilisation. Whatever opinion I may now entertain with regard to the virtues of syphilisation, I certainly had no prejudice against it originally, and have published a plate in my work on *Syphilitis*, illustrating the appearances of the inoculations in a case in which I had tried it.

Mr. friend Dr. Marston informs me that he has also lately carried it to the extent of some forty to sixty inoculations, but with no benefit to the disease for which it was tried, and with a certain amount of damage to the patient's constitution.

When these experiments are tried on those who are already syphilitic, and who are provided for in military hospitals, no great harm can probably follow. But, holding the views I do, your readers will not be surprised if I should exert what little influence I may have to prevent the young men of our country from leaving their homes to be syphilised with matter taken indiscriminately from hard and soft sores, where there is any chance of their having a disease communicated to them which they had not before.

I am, etc., HENRY LEE.

9, Savile Row, February 12th, 1865.

ADVICE GRATIS "AT HOME."

LETTER FROM HENRY LOWNDES, ESQ.

SIR,—On the question of the gratuitous services of hospital surgeons I am compelled sometimes to differ from you, as I think both the charities and the profession gain by the medical officers being an associate rather than a servant of the committee or governing body. But I had the greatest pleasure in reading your remarks on private gratuitous advice.

In this town this system is carried on to a considerable extent, and that even by gentlemen who profess, and I believe honestly, to have the welfare of the profession at heart. I believe—and I shall be glad to be put right if wrong—that at least five-sixths of these gratuitous patients bring as introductions notes from druggists who have been tampering, as far as they dare, with the case; and to these druggists they of course return with their prescriptions until such a change takes place as will either require a certificate or allow the patient to swallow the druggists' own prescriptions in comparative safety. Of course, respectable druggists do not do these things, but the very system of gratuitous advice has, I believe, led to the existence of a class of shops that could not be otherwise maintained.

Any one who knows not how easy it is to poison a child, but how difficult it is sometimes not to do so, can imagine how much of our excessive infant mortality this system may account for. Those who by keeping open house support this system, are not indeed perhaps morally guilty of murder, but they are accessory to this wholesale slaughter.

The injury the system inflicts on young and struggling medical men is manifest. Those who have got past their early struggles are often greatly annoyed by finding that their patients who could well afford, if necessary, a consultation fee, run off in secret to have a gratuitous interview with some great doctor who declares the oracles. I hope abler pens than mine will take this matter up, and that the profession will not rest until this system is at least reformed.

I am, etc.,

HENRY LOWNDES.

Liverpool, February 11th, 1865.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND. The following members of the College, having undergone the necessary examinations, were admitted Licentiates in Midwifery at a meeting of the Board, on February 8th, 1865.

Clements, George, Brixham, Devon: diploma of membership dated January 24, 1865
 Dillon, Patrick William, Ennis, co. Clare: July 11, 1851
 Douglas, George Cox, Ware, Herts: May 24, 1864
 Dwelly, Henry James, Wandsworth: July 26, 1864
 Hatherly, Henry Reginald, Derby: November 16, 1864
 Hyde, Edward, Witney, Oxon: July 30, 1863
 Jones, William Owen, Bala, North Wales: August 1, 1861
 Purcell, Ferdinand Albert, Cork: January 26, 1865
 Roberts, John Coryton, Peckham: July 26, 1864
 Rogers, Charles Edward Heron, West Meon, Petersfield: July 27, 1864
 Smith, Edward Roberts, Dudley, Worcestershire: May 24, 1864
 Smith, Walter, Bognor, Sussex: May 11, 1864
 Stone, William Domett, Lincoln's Inn Fields: April 10, 1861
 Williams, Hutchins, Southampton: May 27, 1853

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, EDINBURGH. During the recent sittings of the examiners, the following gentlemen passed their final examinations, and obtained the diploma of the College.

Clendinnen, William Ellis, county Wicklow
 Higgins, Thomas James, Lissos
 Hoggan, Edward, Meerut, India
 Ingram, James, Orkney
 Jamieson, Alexander Wallace, Derbyshire
 Mason, James, Rutlandshire
 Thin, Robert, Kilkenny

ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, EDINBURGH. (Double Qualification.) The following gentlemen passed their first professional examinations during the recent sittings of the examiners.

Budge, John T., Cuthness
 Coppinger, Albert W., Cork
 Goulden, James Henry Oswald, Stockport
 Leman, J., Montreal
 Mason, James Lindsay, Montreal
 Roche, Arthur, Cork
 Stewart, Robert, Edinburgh
 Thompson, William G. W., Ballymoney
 Witherspoon, John Thompson Richardson, Dumfriesshire

And the following gentlemen passed their final examinations, and were admitted L.R.C.P. Edinburgh, and L.R.C.S. Edinburgh.

Beresford, Robert, Dublin
 Dods, James, East Lothian
 Forbes, Daniel Mackay, Edinburgh
 Hague, Samuel, Ashton-under-Lyne
 Miller, Alexander Hunter, Edinburgh
 Turner, Robert, Ayr

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On February 9th, 1865, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Boult, Edward Farrington, Bath
 Mackenzie, George Weiland, Tiverton, Devon
 Mason, James, Barrowden, Rutlandshire
 Roberts, John, Festiniog, Merionethshire
 Rogers, Charles Edward Heron, West Meon, near Petersfield
 Tuck, Francis, Oxford
 Watts, Arthur John, Alfred Street, Harrow Road

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

Barton, Frederick, University College Hospital
 Croft, Gilmore Winton, St. Thomas's Hospital
 Withers, Walter Owen, King's College Hospital

APPOINTMENTS.

BELL, Joseph, M.D., appointed Assistant-Surgeon in the Surgical Clinical Wards of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

ROYAL NAVY.

CLIFT, Samuel, Esq., Surgeon, to the *Rattlesnake*.
 JACKSON, Gordon, Esq., Surgeon (additional), to the *Asia*, for service in the *Enchantress*.

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

CLARK, W. W., M.D., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 7th Northamptonshire R.V.
HARRIS, C., M.D., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 9th Cinque Ports R.V.

BIRTH.

MARTYN. On February 13th, at Clifton, the wife of *Samuel Martyn, M.D., of a daughter.

DEATHS.

ADAMS, George Hill, M.D., at Mall Terrace, Notting Hill, on Feb. 6.
BARLOW. On February 4th, at Writtle, Essex, Eleanor Stansfield, second daughter of William R. Barlow, Esq., Surgeon.
GRAINGER, Richard D., Esq., F.R.S., at Highgate, aged 63, on February 11.
GULL. On February 8, at 26, Brook Street, aged 3 years and 10 months, Mary Dacre, youngest child of W. W. Gull, M.D.
HALL. On January 14, in London, Eliza, youngest daughter of Thomas Hall, Esq., Surgeon.
LOWE, William, Esq., Surgeon, at Warboys, aged 60, on February 8.
MACLINTON, Robert, M.D., at Bath, on February 8.
NICOLAS, Thomas, M.D., at Portland, aged 41, on January 27.
RALEIGH, Edward W. W., Esq., late Bengal Medical Service, aged 62, on January 22.
SCOT. At Farnborough, Hants, lately, aged 78, Helen Goldie, widow of William Scot, Esq., late Superintending Surgeon at Madras.
WALLES. On February 14th, at Downham Market, aged 71, Mary, the wife of *Thomas Garneus Wales, Esq.
WAVELL, Robert M., M.D., at Newport, Isle of Wight, aged 66, on February 8.
WELCH. On February 14, at Taunton, aged 83, Mary, widow of the late Charles Welch, Esq., Surgeon.

CANDLER v. PEAT. One hundred pounds have been subscribed and given to Mr. Peat to help in defraying the expenses incurred by him in the action of Candler v. Peat.

SMALLPOX IN DUBLIN. The ages of the persons whose deaths from smallpox were registered during the past week in Dublin were respectively 9, 10, and 22 years; none of them had been protected by vaccination.

BEQUEST. By will George Dodd, Esq., late of Grosvenor Place, leaves the following charitable bequests: To the Royal Institution, the Artists' Benevolent Fund, St. George's Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, and Lock Hospital, each £100.

KNIGHTHOOD OF DR. A. TAYLOR. The Queen has been pleased to direct letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal granting the dignity of a Knight of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland unto Alexander Taylor, Esq., Doctor of Medicine.

MR. CHARLES HAWKINS has been unanimously elected (by ballot) treasurer of St. George's Hospital, in place of the late Sir A. Croft. This is, we believe, the first time that a medical man has been appointed to the post of honour; and is a sure indication of the high esteem felt for Mr. Hawkins by the governors of the hospital.

SUICIDE OF VICTOR TOWNLEY. Victor Townley, the murderer of Miss Goodwin, destroyed himself on Sunday afternoon by jumping over the staircase railings in Pentonville Prison, on his return from chapel. He received a concussion of the brain, and died in a state of unconsciousness at eight o'clock the same evening.

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF CALCUTTA. On Tuesday last, Mr. Vansittart asked the Secretary of State for India whether anything had been done to improve the sanitary state of Calcutta; if so, whether he had any objection to produce papers relating to the same? Sir C. Wood said that a sanitary commission was appointed and made a report, but he had not received a report of what had been done in consequence of that report.

SOMETHING LIKE AN APPETITE. The *Patria* of Naples states that there is at present in the Hospital of Incurables in that city an old woman who is suffering from a strange disease. She every day eats at least five portions of roast meat, seventy eggs, several loaves, and other food, of course including a good quantity of macaroni. When attempts are made to reduce her diet she raves like a mad woman. Professor Zamoglia has recently undertaken to cure the poor woman, but up to the present time her appetite remains unimpaired.

CHILD-BED DIET. Before summing up these few remarks, says Dr. Patterson, let me add my humble testimony to the good effects of a more supporting diet after childbirth, as for a series of years past I have enjoyed and ordered a pretty liberal diet, especially in great exhaustion from uterine hæmorrhage after severe labour; and instead of harm, much benefit was derived by the patient after delivery. I am convinced that by this means recoveries will be less tedious and far more satisfactory, than under the frugal bill of fare which in such cases is usually prescribed. (*Glasgow Medical Journal.*)

POOR-LAW UNION MEDICAL OFFICERS. In the House of Commons, on Tuesday, Mr. R. Long asked the President of the Poor-Law Board whether he proposed to reappoint the select committee on the poor laws, with the view of further inquiry into the position and the grievances of medical officers of poor-law unions. Mr. Villiers said it was not his intention to move the reappointment of a committee of inquiry on this subject. It was investigated by the committee referred to by the hon. gentleman who took into their consideration the evidence given before a committee of the house, and declined to call further evidence.

ANOTHER VICTIM TO THE POOR LAWS. It is with feelings of pain that we find ourselves called upon to announce the death of another member of the medical faculty, by fever contracted in the discharge of his professional duties. Dr. Cæsar, jun., has, like Mr. George Fitton, succumbed to fever. We understand that his death is indirectly traceable to the hardships he has had to encounter while acting as medical attendant at the Auxiliary Fever Hospital instituted by the Board of Guardians. While his attendance was required at the hospital throughout the whole day, he was not allowed even a chair to sit on. Although we have the information from reliable authority, we can scarcely believe it, and we hope it may be found to be exaggerated. We cannot, however, forget that it was sought by some of the guardians to require his attendance by night as well as by day, and that such a course would have been attempted but for the outspoken manner in which Dr. William Townsend showed the inhumanity of requiring more service than they had been receiving. The deceased took fever at the Auxiliary Fever Hospital, and was removed to the North Fever Hospital, where he died, after an illness of fifteen days. It cannot be expected that medical men, whose education costs a large sum of money, and requires the application of several years, will be got to put their lives in jeopardy for the miserable stipend of two guineas a week, which the guardians have been rather grudgingly paying. We cannot repress the thought that the parsimony of the guardians, respecting the management of the fever hospital, has been productive of loss of life, and we think the death of Dr. Cæsar an event for which they ought to show their sorrow by evincing, for the future, a more humane spirit towards the members of this very useful, but insufficiently appreciated profession. (*Cork Reporter.*)

THE ARMY ACTING ASSISTANT-SURGEONS. A recent number of the *London Gazette* contains the announcement that the undermentioned acting assistant-surgeons have ceased to do duty, there being no longer occasion for their services:—W. E. Bower, J. G. Campbell, P. Lee, J. Craven, F. P. Beamish, M.D., R. E. Hogan, T. Hunt, R. P. Gelston, W. Haynes, M.D., T. P. Tyrrell, J. T. B. Lawrie, M.D., R. Wallace, W. K. Brock, J. R. Roe, E. A. Keogh, M.D., J. B. Gaffney, W. Durrant, J. A. Gaven, R. FitzGerald, A. Mulcahy, W. F. Fenton, W. Adams. This list, we believe, comprises the whole of the recently appointed "acting assistant-surgeons."

A HOMŒOPATHIC CONVERT. The *Jersey Times* of last week has the following:—"A Disagreeable Surprise. At a recent complimentary public dinner given by his professional brethren to Dr. Thomas, the eminent surgeon to the Staffordshire County Hospital at Wolverhampton, the recipient of this honour is reported to have stated in his acknowledgment of the toast of the evening that he had instituted a long and careful inquiry into the nature and value of homœopathy, and had found its principles and practice to be so unequivocally true and reliable, and, above all, so extremely effective in the treatment of disease, that he had firmly resolved to devote the remainder of his life to their propagation and support. Dr. Thomas is a graduate, with honours, at the University of London, a member of the College and Hall, and a gold medallist both in anatomy and medicine of London University, Longridge prizeman of University College also, and, prior to his appointment of surgeon to the Staffordshire County Hospital at Wolverhampton, was demonstrator of anatomy in the University College Medical School. (*Liverpool Weekly Mercury*, December 31st, 1864.)"

JOTTINGS FROM REGISTRARS' NOTES. The reports transmitted to the Registrar-General by the local registrars on the state of their districts during the last quarter of 1864 contain the following among other statements:—St. Martin's, Birmingham—"Smallpox has been very prevalent; vaccination is frequently disregarded; there is no local medical officer of health in the town." Worcester, West—"Small-pox is very prevalent; none of the persons who died were vaccinated." Scarborough—"43 deaths from smallpox; not one of the victims, so far as I can ascertain, had been vaccinated." Exeter, St. Sidwell—"Scarlatina and smallpox are very prevalent; not more than one-third of the children are vaccinated." St. Helen's—"Smallpox is most prevalent in that part of the town noted for its defective sanitary arrangements, and inhabited principally by the Irish; there is an entire absence, apparently, of all ideas of cleanliness." Yeovil—"Several deaths have occurred from typhoid fever; the drainage is in a very bad state." Blyth—"Nineteen deaths from typhoid fever, 11 of them occurring in Newsham and Forster Pit districts, which are deficient in sanitary arrangements and a proper supply of water." Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire—"Upwards of 300 persons have been attacked by typhoid fever during the quarter; the medical men attribute the great prevalence of the disease to bad drainage." Orsett, Essex—"Fever of a typhoid character has prevailed; cases of this kind were sent into the workhouse, and in spite of all precautions the disease spread." Wiveliscombe, Somerset—"The excess of deaths is caused by scarlatina existing as a wide-spread epidemic; medical men are rarely called to treat this disease in its early stages by the poor and middle class." Ely—"There were 23 deaths in town from scarlatina, and only one in the fens." Mutford, Lowestoft—"A woman died aged 104 years; her faculties appeared unimpaired until the last."

Acton—"Among the deaths is that of a child found dead in the Church Road, the sex of which is returned by the coroner's 'information' as being both male and female."

LEARNED LUNATICS. At a trial last month before the City Court of Brooklyn, New York, in which the plaintiff claimed a verdict and damages against her brother and nephew for taking her to Bloomingdale Lunatic Asylum, though she was (she alleged) really of sound mind, Dr. Brown, the principal physician of the asylum, was asked whether it was not possible that a person of insane mind could write such poems as this lady had written, one of which had become very popular. The doctor's answer was,—“Certainly. I suppose the best reply I can give to that question is to state that *Adler's German and English Dictionary*, which is used as a standard text-book in the principal colleges in the country, was written in the Bloomingdale Asylum by a person of insane mind. I might also mention a number of standard text-books which were written in that institution; and I will state as a conclusive fact that one of the leading newspapers in New York is principally edited in the Bloomingdale Lunatic Asylum, and the leading editorial is written three or four times a week by a person of unsound mind confined in that institution.”

SUPERANNUATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS. We would be glad that the superannuation fund of all workhouse officials were placed on the Consolidated Fund, as has been done with the officers of the civil service. We know of no learned profession so trying, and, at the same time, so inadequately rewarded, as that of the medical practitioner. He comes daily into contact with scenes of misery and suffering, and the wretchedness he sees must, if he be not possessed of a breast of stone, urge him, in many instances, to bestow more than he can, perhaps, afford to part with. The physician, in the exercise of his profession, becomes acquainted with want in its thousand and one forms. What other professional man endures so much? Putting out of consideration the expense of his education, and the extent of his acquirements, who, in the practice of his business, endures such hardships, and runs such risks. The soldier braves the battle-field; but, happily, wars are not contagious, and he is afforded ample leisure to "shoulder his crutch, and show how fields are won." The clergyman attends at the bedside of the sick to administer religious consolation. But his functions cease when consciousness is overwhelmed by contagious disease. The physician is called on to be most active and attentive, when all other relief is useless, and when danger is most formidable. He is a soldier—daily, hourly facing the cannon's mouth. He is a "ministering angel," when fond friends think more of the cure of the body than of the soul. And yet, how poor is his reward! The number of general practitioners who enjoy an income adequate to the mental wear and tear of their profession is small; while of those whose incomes are small and precarious the name is "legion." (*Southern Rep.*)

THE MARTIN EXHIBITIONS. The subscribers to the fund for establishing exhibitions in the Reigate Grammar School, in memory of the late Mr. Peter Martin, will be glad to learn that, not only have the requisite funds been collected and invested in the names of certain trustees, but that the first examination and distribution has already taken place. There were eight candidates; and on the 27th ultimo, the trustees attended at the school to distribute the awards of £20 and £10 respectively, in the presence of the scholars, to the successful candidates; viz., Gooch, jun., to whom the examiners had assigned the senior, and to Nash the junior exhibition. George Baker, Esq., expressed the great pleasure he had in

handing over to the successful competitors the exhibitions which had been established to the memory of their departed friend whose bust he now saw before him. Mr. Baker spoke of the many excellent qualities of Mr. Peter Martin, who had so greatly endeared himself to a large circle of friends by whom his virtues were cherished. The allusion of Mr. Baker was to a cast of the marble bust executed by the eminent sculptor, Mr. Weekes, R.A., of the late Mr. Peter Martin (presented to the trustees by Thos. Martin, Esq.), which, after the design of one of the trustees of the school, has been placed by Mr. Carruthers in an elegant niche in a conspicuous part of the school. Our readers will be glad to know that not only the profession, but also the public (from whom such subscriptions are highly gratifying) of Reigate and its neighbourhood, have done full justice to the memory of the late Mr. Peter Martin. Besides £1000 set apart for the Exhibition Fund, sufficient money was subscribed to secure a bust in duplicate by Weekes and a memorial window.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS. London has hitherto been the only great city of the world in which the causes of all the deaths and the births have been inquired into, and published weekly. The bills were commenced in the reign of Elizabeth, when thousands of the people were swept away by zymotic diseases; and London was in truth periodically the city of the plague, containing within its walls and liberties a population of only 130,178 souls. The cause of nearly every death is certified by the medical attendants, and the certificates are copied by the 135 registrars, who forward abstracts of their registers weekly, which reach the General Register Office every Monday morning. The population of London was 2,803,989 in 1861. It is no longer decimated by the plague, and it is some years since cholera ravaged its parishes. But the causes of death are numerous, and their operation can only be arrested by a knowledge of the laws which govern death as they govern life. Our knowledge of these laws is likely to be increased by extending the area of observation; and in endeavouring to accomplish this object the Registrar-General has everywhere met with co-operation. The utility of weekly returns is admitted all over Europe. Vienna is at present one of the great medical schools of the age, and from that city the returns are punctually sent to this office every week by Dr. Glatter. Berlin will probably supply the same information. Baron Haussmann, whose efforts to improve Paris are well known, has been communicated with, and he will, with his admirable administrative organisation, have no difficulty in supplying science with the same information about the state of the public health of Paris as is furnished here respecting the health of London. The Registrar-General of Ireland publishes weekly tables for Dublin; and the Registrar-General of Scotland zealously co-operates by procuring returns for Edinburgh and Glasgow. Under these circumstances it has been thought right to procure returns from Liverpool, Manchester, Salford, Birmingham, Leeds, and Bristol, six of the greatest cities or boroughs of England. The returns are furnished by the local registrars, who have laudably aided in the work.

CRIMINAL LUNATICS. These are what they always call themselves, "her Majesty's pleasure people," that is, sentenced to imprisonment during her Majesty's pleasure. Some are reading, some are writing, some playing draughts, a few shambling to and fro in moody silence like caged animals, while some sit staring with blank intensity upon the opposite wall, from which they never move their eyes. Here comes one who was, when at large, more dangerous to her Majesty than Oxford himself, hopelessly

mad from a vain love of notoriety, which he thinks he has attained, as the grand strut with which he enters the room shows clearly enough. The once terrible Captain Johnston is here now, cured to a mild and inoffensive idiocy; and here, too, is Macnaughten, as really mad as when he killed poor Mr. Drummond. Here is a non-commissioned officer, whose murder of his wife and family some years ago shocked all England. His only anxiety now is about his good conduct medal. Here, too, are several who had already been in asylums before for attempted murder, had been discharged as cured, and having then perpetrated murder outright, have been committed to stay here for evermore. As a rule, those reading are the half-cured, and these seldom speak or are spoken to. Those writing so intensely are generally preparing interminable memorials to the Home Secretary, or keeping the most insane of diaries to show the Commissioners in Lunacy as proofs of their cure and reasons for their discharge. The maddest of all these are those who beset the governors with endless arguments on the necessity for their being set at liberty at once. As a rule, all in this block are harmless, though the prefixes which come attached to their characters and dispositions are not at first sight calculated to convey this mild impression. Thus we find "T. M., murdered his wife and two children; quiet and very harmless. L. F., murdered his wife, sister, and child; obedient, quiet, and perfectly inoffensive." A few who are sane during the greater part of the year are subject to periodical returns of their dangerous maladies. But of the symptoms which precede these outbreaks Dr. Meyer is always a careful observer, and the patients are in good time removed to the "strong block," of which we shall have to speak presently.

ARMY MEDICAL SCHOOL. The following was the examination at the close of the ninth session of the Army Medical School, Netley, between January 30th and February 4th, 1865. The Examiners were Professors Parkes, M.D., Maclean, M.D., Longmore, and Aitken, M.D. *A. Written Questions.* *i. Military Hygiene.* 1. If you were called upon to give your opinion as to the desirability of a certain water-supply, which it was proposed to use for a garrison of five thousand men, what points would lead you to an opinion, firstly, as to the sufficiency of the supply; secondly, as to the purity of the water? 2. If an outbreak of diarrhoea affected suddenly a number of persons in a limited area, what would be the most probable causes? and how would you ascertain the existence of those causes? 3. What are the principal causes which produce movement of air in rooms? and at what rate does movement become perceptible? What are the regulations as regards cubic space per head at home and abroad? and what are the recommendations of the Barrack Commissioners in respect of the quantity of air which should be given per head per hour in barracks? 4. What are the chief diseases which at present cause mortality in the West Indies and the Mauritius? and what are the chief rules of prevention? *ii. Military Medicine.* 1. Give as complete an account as you can of the causes which produce (a) typhus, (b) dysentery, and (c) phthisis, in armies. 2. Describe the general and special indications of the treatment in the typhus of armies. 3. Give the causes, symptoms, diagnosis, consequences, and treatment of enlarged spleen. *iii. Military Surgery.* 1. Describe the treatment you would adopt on being called to a recent case of gunshot wound of the abdomen, under each of the following six conditions—(a) one opening, without direct evidence whether the projectile has or has not penetrated the cavity of the abdomen; (b) one opening, the cavity being evidently opened, but no complica-

tion being visible; (c) wound penetrating the cavity, complicated with hæmorrhage externally; (d) wound with protrusion of the intestine, the intestine itself being unopened; (e) the same, but with intestine opened; and (f) two penetrating wounds, without visible complications. 2. Explain the way in which the eye is enabled to see objects at different distances, and the method by which the range between the nearest and the most distant points of distinct vision may be determined and expressed. Show also how, when presbyopia exists, its degree and the means of correcting it can be ascertained. 3. Give an outline of the surgical duties and of the general arrangements for the care of the sick and wounded under the ordinary circumstances of troops on the march in time of war. *IV. Pathology.* 1. Define what is understood by syphilis. Describe the characters, probable periods of incubation, duration, and consequences, of the various primary venereal sores; and state what kinds of eruptions or sores on the organs of generation may be confounded with venereal sores. 2. Define what is understood by pyæmia and hospital gangrene. Describe the circumstances which tend to induce and propagate the morbid states which these terms comprehend. 3. Describe and interpret the prominent lesions seen in the *post mortem* examination of * * *, who died, aged 23, of chronic dysentery, and was dissected on January 6th, 1865. The points to be attended to in your accounts are as follows: (a) What were the anatomical signs in the small intestine which pointed to the nature of the common continued fever which he was said to have had in Hongkong? State the name of the common continued fever it is probable he had. (b) What were the conditions of the colon and rectum, (c) of the liver, and (d) of the lungs. *B. Practical Examination.* I and II. Examination, historical account, statement of diagnosis, prognosis, effects of proposed treatment, etc., of one *surgical*, and one *medical* case. III. *Hygiene.* Examination of various specimens of water, for chloride of sodium, for organic matter, and for total hardness. Examination and analysis of specimens of milk and of beer. Microscopic examination of samples of coffee and flour. IV. *Pathology.* Demonstration of the urinary tubuli and cortical portion of a microscopic preparation of a kidney. Description of various preparations of morbid anatomy. Examination of secretions.

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."—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. De Méric, "Clinical Experience in Syphilis."

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, Lettsoman Lectures on the Surgery of the Rectum. Lecture III, "On the Treatment of Hemorrhoids, and Prolapsus of the Rectum."

FRIDAY. Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Structure and Classification of the Mammalia."

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. WILLIAM NEWMAN, Dr. DURBANT; Dr. W. H. O. SANKEY; Mr. FURNEAUX JORDAN; Mr. STONE; Dr. MARTYN; THE HON. SECRETARIES OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; Mr. H. LOWNDES; Dr. JOHN THOMPSON; Dr. S. W. D. WILLIAMS; Dr. BRUSH; THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON; COLONEL H. M. WALMSLEY; Dr. BEIGEL; Mr. E. BATTY; Mr. OLIVER PEMBERTON; Mr. H. TERRY, JUN.; Dr. SKINNER; Mr. T. PRIDGIN TEALE, JUN.; Dr. WOODFORDE; Mr. BRODHURST; Mr. HENRY LEE; Mr. E. BUSH; Mr. SANKEY; Dr. RADFORD; Dr. JAMES RUSSELL; Mr. T. D. JACKSON; Dr. J. BELL; Mr. T. G. WALES, JUN.; Dr. SNOW BECK; Dr. RICHARDSON; Dr. R. FOWLER; Mr. A. RANSOME; and Dr. N. D. MOORE.

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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 Orthopædic, 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.

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.

THE INDIAN MEDICAL WARRANT. (OBSERVER).—We gave no credence to the report of the Indian Medical Warrant having been withdrawn, and therefore did not allude to it in the JOURNAL. Our correspondent has perhaps learnt that the same journal which spread the report has also authoritatively, in a later number, stated that the report was incorrect.

VENESECTON.—SIR: I cannot forbear offering Dr. Markham my meed of sincere approbation for his lines on the subject of venesection. I am so far advanced in years as to see the immense changes in medical practice and surgery. The boldness of the latter is almost exceeding all belief in comparison with its former status. I congratulate Dr. Markham on hitting the more common sense view of treating disease, by a modification of the two extremes into which medical men have verged. Having been an old lecturer on midwifery, etc., I have constantly endeavoured to impress on the pupils that, whatever theories with their apparent degrees of success, they must maintain their opinions based on "common sense", and not be led away by the *ipse dixit* of any man who has not experience to guide him.
Liverpool. I am, etc., E. B.

THE WOODHALL AND ASHEY SPAS.—SIR: Can you furnish me with some account of the medicinal properties of the spas at Woodhall and Ashby-de-la-Zouch; or allow me to ask the same of some local M.D.; as well as the complaints in which they are said to be specially serviceable.
I am, etc.,

THOMAS DIXON JACKSON, M.R.C.S., etc.
Slaiburn, Clitheroe, February 14th, 1865.

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