

Association Intelligence.

BRANCH MEETING TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
METROPOL. COUNTIES. [Ordinary.]	37, Soho Square.	Friday, Jan. 26, 8 P.M.

Reports of Societies.

OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 1865.

ROBERT BARNES, M.D., President, in the Chair.

Six gentlemen were elected Fellows.

Specimens. Dr. RITCHIE exhibited a Dermoid Cyst developed in the Fallopian Tube, about the size of a plum, composed of four loculi which contained dendritic growths, similar to the dermoid cysts of the ovaries, and which he thought bore analogy to uterine mole pregnancy. He considered that, arguing from this case, it was not impossible that dermoid cysts might some day be found in the uterine cavity, the result of conception.

Dr. J. BRAXTON HICKS exhibited a Polypus weighing 2½ lbs., removed by Dr. Oldham with the wire-rope écraseur. Before removal it reached from the vulva to just beneath the umbilicus. The patient was doing well.

Dr. GREENHALGH exhibited a Polypus removed by the wire-rope écraseur; and also a Growth removed from the Cervix of a Pregnant Woman without hæmorrhage, but the patient aborted a few days afterwards.

An Anomaly of the Placenta. By R. UVEDALE WEST, M.D. In this paper, which was illustrated by drawings, the author related several cases of "battledore placenta," in which the funis was inserted in the membranes, and divided into its vessels, at a considerable distance from the edge of that organ; and described how great doubt and awkward embarrassment may arise to the accoucheur when, as happened to the author, this anomaly occurs with one of the funes of a twin placenta, through its accidental tearing away from its very lacerable attachment.

Two Cases of Obstructed Labour; with Remarks. By SAMUEL BERRY, L.R.C.P.Ed., Birmingham. After alluding to the obstructions which occurred to the birth of the child, Dr. Berry instanced a case of obstruction by an ovarian tumour, in which the child had been, with considerable force, delivered by the forceps. The next day, after coughing, the patient felt something descend. Dr. Berry was then called in, and on examination, found it to be an ovarian tumour, the pedicle of which was traced through a rent in the upper part of the vagina. Opiates were given; and, two days afterwards, a ligature was put round the pedicle, which was then cut through just below. The patient recovered without much anxious symptoms, and was about again at the end of a month. She has also been delivered since, and without any trouble. In the other case there was a soft tumour springing from the sacrum, which reduced the antero-posterior diameter to about two inches. This was explored by trocar; but nothing but blood flowing, it was debated whether Cæsarean section should be performed or not. It was ultimately agreed to perforate.

This was done, and the fœtus then turned. Very great difficulty occurred; but at last it was accomplished. The patient, however, died afterwards from rupture (as it subsequently appeared) of the uterus. Dr. Berry pointed out the inferences to be gathered from these cases: that, in the first the tumours should have been tapped before the use of forceps; and, in the latter, the Cæsarean section would have been probably much the safer treatment.

Dr. A. HALL related a case similar to the last one, where version had been adopted, and rupture of the tumour, with internal hæmorrhage, caused death shortly afterwards.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES OF CÆSAREAN SECTION OVER CRANIOTOMY IN EXTREME DISTORTIONS OF THE BRIM. BY R. GREENHALGH, M.D.

HE recited cases of difficult craniotomy; together with another case of Cæsarean section which he had recently performed, in which the patient afterwards died. After analysing the cases on record and his own, he considered that craniotomy should not be attempted where the effective antero-posterior diameter was less than two inches, considering the chances for the patient better under Cæsarean section.

In the discussion which followed,

Dr. BARNES showed a fœtus that he had drawn through a very deformed pelvis by the craniotomy forceps, bringing by it the face to present; the mechanism of which instrument had been pointed out to the Society by Dr. Braxton Hicks last year.

Dr. PLATFAIR referred at length to the statistics of the Cæsarean section published by M. Dufeillay in the *Archives Générales de Médecine*, which showed that, where the operation had been performed under favourable circumstances, 80 per cent. of all the patients had recovered, whereas in unfavourable circumstances, 17 per cent. of the operations had been successful. Even this was a better result than had been obtained in England; but if anybody would take the trouble to read over the history of the recorded cases, and would note the semi-moribund condition in which the patients generally had been before the operation was resorted to, he would be surprised, not so much at the mortality, but rather that even the small success of 11 per cent. had been obtained. Dr. Playfair did not suppose that M. Dufeillay's statistics could be taken as absolutely correct, but they at least proved that the Cæsarean section need not be the almost certainly mortal operation we were generally taught to consider it. He wished, however particularly to refer to the question of the proper treatment of cases of labour obstructed by ovarian tumours which could neither be pushed out of the way nor punctured. He had lately collected the details of more than fifty cases of this complication, and found that more than one-half of all the cases in which craniotomy had been performed had terminated fatally. It was doubtful whether, if the Cæsarean section had been employed in preference, the mortality would have been greater; and not only would the children have been saved, but a radical cure of the disease might have been effected at the same time. Even if the patient survived craniotomy, the disease still remained, and in all probability at no distant period she would again have to undergo the risk of an equally serious operation for its removal. It might even be possible to remove the ovarian cysts, which must necessarily be small, without incising the uterus. At any rate, it seemed that the ordinary rules of practice laid down for this emergency should be reconsidered.

Dr. EASTLAKE referred to one of Dr. Greenhalgh's

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On January 4th, 1866, the following Licentiate was admitted:—
Mapleson, Horsley Thomas, 34, Devonshire Terrace

BIRTHS.

ANDERSON. On January 5th, at Glasgow, the wife of T. M'Call Anderson, M.D., of a daughter.
BROWN. On December 31st, 1865, at Rochester, the wife of *Frederick James Brown, M.D., of a daughter.
COCKELL. On January 1st, the wife of Frederick E. Cockell, Esq., Surgeon, Dalston, of a daughter.
DAVE. On December 30th, 1865, at Perth, the wife of Assistant-Surgeon G. S. Davie, M.D., Royal Artillery, of a daughter.
MACILWAIN. On January 6th, at Matching Green, Essex, the wife of G. Macilwain, Esq., Surgeon, Albany Court Yard, of a son.
OWEN. On January 8th, at Leatherhead, the wife of *Francis Owen, Esq., of a son.
PALFREY. On January 7th, at Finsbury Place, the wife of James Palfrey, M.D., of a daughter.
SWAIN. On January 6th, at Shaftesbury, the wife of Isaac H. Swain, M.D., of a daughter.
SKINNER. On January 1st, at Lyme Regis, Dorset, the wife of David S. Skinner, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

GUEST, Edmund, Esq., Surgeon, at Halsey Street, Chelsea, aged 49, on January 4.
***ROBERTS,** John, Esq., Senior Surgeon of the St. Pancras Workhouse, London, of typhus fever, aged 26, on December 30, 1865.
***SISSON,** Andrew, Esq., at Reigate, aged 56, on January 4.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. The second lecture of the course of Lettsomian Lectures on "Certain Painful Affections of the Fifth Nerve," will be delivered by Dr. Anstie on Monday, January 22nd.

REWARDS TO CHOLERA DOCTORS. The Emperor of Austria has bestowed Imperial honours on Dr. Deschauer and other medical men for their services during the late cholera epidemic in the Garrison Hospital at Trieste.

COTTAGE HOSPITALS. The fifth annual report of the Fowey Cottage Hospital has just been published; from which it appears that the whole annual expenses of the institution have been under £20. The patients have been required to contribute towards their own support.

CHARGE AGAINST A HERBALIST. The herbalist and *soi-disant* surgeon, S. E. Hardinge, who was charged with causing the death of Harriet White by operating on her for the purpose of procuring abortion, has been discharged by the magistrate, on the ground of absence of sufficient evidence to connect him with the act.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. The preliminary examination in general knowledge for the diploma of membership, which is conducted by the Royal College of Preceptors, has just terminated. Of seventy-five candidates who offered themselves, their ages varying from 16 to 28 years, thirteen were referred back to their studies.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A PHYSICIAN. An inquest was held on Monday on the body of Henry Payne, M.D., of Nottingham, who had been found dead in bed on the previous morning. From the evidence of Mrs. Payne it appeared that the deceased, who was 80 years of age, had been in good health. On Sunday morning she left him getting up at twenty minutes past eight. She returned in ten minutes, and found the deceased lying on the bed. She immediately called in medical aid, but he was dead. Verdict accordingly.

THE ACCOUCHEMENT OF THE DUCHESS DE CHARTRES took place on the 10th instant. Drs. Priestley and Gueneau de Mussy, and Mr. Izod of Esher, were in attendance.

MR. I. B. BROWN has been elected a corresponding member of the Physico-Medical and Statistical Society of Milan. A diploma was forwarded to him by the President, with a flattering letter.

CATTLE DISEASE IN MADRAS. The cattle disease has appeared in the Madras presidency. Upwards of 3000 head of horned cattle have died of the disease, which is now raging in Burmah, and in one or two districts it has affected the inhabitants. Veterinary Surgeon T. Gudgeon, of the Queen's Bays, has volunteered to go to Burmah to investigate the malady.

THE HUNTERIAN ORATION. This discourse in memory of the immortal founder of the collection in the Royal College of Surgeons will not be delivered on the anniversary of the birth of Hunter in February next. The oration is now delivered biennially, and will consequently be read in February 1867, it is believed by Professor Hilton, F.R.S., a vice-president of the college.

FEMALE DOCTORS. M. L. D. de Pontes, in his recent work on England, when discussing the equality of men and women and their real and essential differences, remarks, on the subject of female doctors, that there are too many male doctors in the world already, and that the existing sicknesses of mankind are not sufficient to supply them all with a living.

BEQUESTS. Mr. W. Borradaile, formerly of Worthing, has bequeathed £500 to the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton; and £100 to each of the following: the Infirmary and Dispensary of Wells, Somerset, and the Infirmary and Dispensary of Worthing. And £500 to the following metropolitan hospitals: the Charing-cross, the Brompton Consumption, and the Seaman's Hospital Ship *Dreadnought*.

A HOMŒOPATH'S VIEW OF THE CASE. How often, now-a-days, is heard the expression—"Oh, my doctor is almost a homœopath; he gives so little physic!" But let the public beware that it is not deceived by this fallacy; a small dose allopath is not a whit nearer homœopathy than the one who gives the most massive doses; betwixt both and homœopathy there flows the same broad sea of difference of principle. Homœopathy's vital breath is the law, "*Similia similibus curantur*;" deprived of that it must cease to exist; and the smallest dose allopath is no more a homœopath than a marble statue is a living man.

DR. DRAPER ON PNEUMONIA. Dr. Draper of New York, in a discussion, remarked that no subjects of discussion were so unsatisfactory and resultless as discussions about the treatment of disease. There were so many considerations of age, sex, constitution, locality, epidemic influences, and the *bias* arising from preconceived opinions regarding treatment, that any discussion on the treatment of a particular disease became extremely unsatisfactory; and it is with difficulty that we can arrive at correct conclusions. The numerical method is not yet perfectly understood, and also liable to error. No subject illustrates this better than pneumonia. Here the extremes, bloodletting and the stimulant or expectant method, meet; and between these all shades of treatment are to be found. How are we to distinguish? *Change of type* in disease has been invoked to explain the diversity in the practice of to-day and that of former years. But the advocates of this change of type assume a position illogical and opposed to progress. The explanation must be found

in the slow and steady progress of our knowledge, in more enlightened views of pathology, in our knowledge that the disease is self-limited, tending toward resolution; and that nature is often competent to carry the patient through without medication. But at the same time it would be erroneous and too extreme to claim for the expectant mode application in all cases.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON. The following gentlemen have been elected officers of the Society for the year 1866. *President*—W. Tyler Smith, M.D. *Vice-Presidents*—B. G. Babington, M.D., F.R.S.; T. Ballard, M.D.; J. B. Walker, Esq.; C. S. Webber, Esq. *Treasurer*—H. W. Fuller, M.D. *Hon. Secretaries*—J. B. Curgenvin, Esq.; C. R. Drysdale, M.D. *Council*—J. D. Allen, M.D.; V. De Méric, Esq.; J. Eardley, Esq.; J. Evans, Esq.; J. Gayleard, Esq.; J. S. Lamb, M.D.; J. R. Lane, Esq.; J. Z. Laurence, Esq.; E. Lowe, Esq.; J. M. Moulin, Esq.; C. Royston, M.D.; J. C. Whaley, Esq. The following arrangements have been made for the second half of the session. January 18th—Dr. Drysdale, "On the Medical Aspects of Prostitution." February 1st—Mr. Victor de Méric, "On Syphilisation." February 15th—Dr. Camps, "On Railway and other Accidents attended with Violence: their Effects on the Nervous System." March 1st—Dr. Broadbent, "On Prognosis in Heart Disease." March 15th—Dr. Meredith, "On the Duality of Venereal Ulcers." April 5th—Debate "On Rheumatism and Gout." April 19th—Dr. H. C. Stewart, "Some further Remarks on Embolism of the Great Vessels of the Heart." May 17th—Debate "On Infanticide in its Medical and Social Bearings."

THE CASES OF MERCURIC METHIDE POISONING. Dr. Hoffman, writing from Berlin on this subject, says: "What was unknown to Dr. Odling at the time he worked on mercuric methide, and what was equally unknown to the writer of these lines and to chemists in general, was the altogether exceptionally poisonous nature of this particular compound of mercury. Mr. Buckton, who discovered it, and other chemists who worked with it before Dr. Odling, say not a syllable of having suffered from its influence, or even of having been annoyed by it, or of the necessity for taking special precautions to avoid danger from it. Now that the frightfully poisonous nature of the body has been proved by these tragical events, it is not difficult to assert that its highly poisonous nature might have been inferred from its composition and physical properties. The possibility of such a conclusion cannot be denied; but it is equally certain that before this catastrophe no one was acquainted with the dangerous properties of mercuric methide. The writer met Dr. Ulrich a few days before his illness. The conversation turned almost exclusively upon the experiments with mercuric methide, on which the young man had been for some time occupied. Dr. Ulrich spoke with the greatest interest of the results of his labours, and of the discoveries likely to be furnished by their continuation. He evidently had not the smallest suspicion of the dangerous nature of the body he was engaged in examining; nor did the slightest suspicion of it cross the mind of the writer, or he certainly would not have parted from his young friend without giving him a serious warning, or without communicating to Dr. Odling, with whom he was in frequent association, his anxiety on the subject; but he did neither the one nor the other. If, therefore, Dr. Odling is to be reproached with ignorance, the undersigned must equally share the reproach."

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's for Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum, 9 A.M. and 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.—St. Thomas'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, 9.30 A.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. Tilbury Fox, "On Leprosy, with Notes taken during recent Travel in the East."
TUESDAY. Pathological Society of London, 8 P.M.—Anthropological Society, 8 P.M.
THURSDAY. Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. Drysdale, "On the Medical Aspects of Prostitution."

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.

Mr. GORE's paper, published in the JOURNAL of last week, should have been described as having been communicated to the Bath and Bristol Branch by Mr. C. S. Barter.

THE GRIFFIN TESTIMONIAL FUND.—SIR: The following subscription has been further received on behalf of the above Fund:—Dr. Hutchinson (Bishop Auckland), 10s.

Amount previously announced, £141:13:3.

I am, etc., ROBERT FOWLER, M.D.,
Treasurer and Hon. Sec.

145, Bishopsgate Street Without, January 10th, 1866.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. FREDERICK J. BROWN; Mr. G. W. ARMSTRONG; THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY; Mr. J. C. S. JENNINGS; THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON; Mr. PAUL BELCHER; Dr. GEO. BODINGTON; Dr. JAMES RUSSELL; Dr. HENRY JOHNSON; Dr. F. PAGE; Mr. HAYNES WALTON; Mr. CEELEY; Mr. G. G. WYER; Dr. J. H. WEBSTER; Mr. C. S. A. ATKINSON; Mr. J. DIX; Mr. STONE; Dr. ROBERT FOWLER; Mr. H. TERRY, JUN.; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; Dr. CAMPS; Dr. DOBELL; Mr. STEELE; Mr. J. BARKER; Dr. J. H. WEBSTER; and Mr. TROUSDALE.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. A Reply by Dr. Hartsborne to some Accusations made against him by Richard Thurstield, Esq., of Broseley. Birmingham: 1865.
2. On the Anatomy of Vertebrates. Vol. 1: Fishes and Reptiles. By Richard Owen, F.R.S. London: 1866.
3. The Treasury of Botany. By J. Lindley, Ph.D., F.R.S., and T. Moore. In Two Parts. London: 1866.
4. Journal of Anthropology. No. 1. London: 1866.