

tangible disease in the central organs. The ordinary appearances are atrophy of the fibrous and ganglionic layers of the retina, with atrophy of the optic nerves, which sometimes stops at the chiasma, at others is continued further back, and is associated with atrophic changes in the thalamus and region of the corpora quadrigemina. If thus the amaurotic disease is to be regarded only as progressive atrophy of the parts connected with the retina and optic nerve, it remaining quite an open question whether the atrophy pursues a centripetal or a centrifugal direction, still this partial atrophy is undeniably in a notable proportion of the cases connected with more widely-spread disease of the central nervous system. Thus the atrophy must sometimes be considered as a further extension of the central disease, at others as the focus from which the disease spreads. The connection of progressive amaurosis, firstly with paralytic amentia, and secondly with grey degeneration of the posterior columns of the cord, is particularly interesting. It is known that during the course of mental diseases amaurotic conditions are not uncommonly observed; but it is, I think, not sufficiently insisted on, that a considerable number of amaurotic patients, who at the time their vision was becoming affected did not exhibit the slightest aberration of intellect, afterwards become insane. While then amaurosis is not at all uncommonly the precursor of mental disease, on the other hand, in grey degeneration of the posterior columns of the cord, the reverse is almost unexceptionally observed. Characteristic signs of the spinal disease (especially anomalies of sensibility) are already present at the commencement of the amaurosis. This is explained by the anatomically proved fact that the degeneration proceeds in an upward direction from the vertebral canal to the cranial cavity. (*Ophthalmic Review*, October, 1865.)

DEATH OF SIR JOHN M'GREGOR, K.C.B. The death is announced of Sir John M'Gregor, M.D., K.C.B., on Saturday last, at Ryde. The deceased (who assumed the name of M'Gregor in 1863) was the second son of Mr. Duncan M'Andrew, and was born at Perth in 1792. Having studied for some time at the University of Edinburgh, in 1809 he entered the medical department of the army, and saw considerable service. In 1856 he received the appointment of Inspector-General of Hospitals; and three years later, in 1859, was appointed one of the honorary physicians of Her Majesty, in the same year being created a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath.

DEFECTS IN SANITARY LEGISLATION. Dr. Mapother, medical officer of health, Dublin, in a paper read before the Statistical Society, on the Unhealthiness of Irish Towns, has proved to demonstration the want of sanitary legislation, and the necessity for the interference of Government. The account which he gives of the non-sanitary condition of very many Irish towns is truly deplorable. "I will assert," he says, "that these statistical facts and suggestions for amendment would have been long since brought under public notice with greater effect by my medical brethren who possess local information in various parts of Ireland, were it not for the natural reluctance on the part of professional men to agitate public questions, the effectual settlement of which would seem to advance their personal interests. But how long is this state of things to last? Are our people to continue to be decimated by avoidable pestilence, because a few professional men might derive emolument from the measures taken to stay it?"

Association Intelligence.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BATH AND BRISTOL. [Ordinary.]	York House, Bath.	Thursday, January 25.
METROPOL. COUNTIES. [Ordinary.]	37, Soho Square.	Friday, Jan. 26, 8 P.M.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE fourth meeting of the present session was held in the Medical Department of the Old Library, Birmingham, January 11th; JAMES RUSSELL, M.D., President, in the chair. Ten members were also present.

Paper. Mr. FURNEAUX JORDAN read a communication entitled "Observations, with Cases, on the following Operations: Operation for Prolapse of the Uterus; a simplified Extraperitoneal Operation in Strangulated Hernia; Holt's Operation for Stricture of the Urethra."

The paper was followed by a discussion.

Reports of Societies.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH, 1866.

JAMES ALDERSON, M.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

ON CERTAIN PRACTICAL POINTS IN THE PATHOLOGY AND TREATMENT OF LATERAL CURVATURE OF THE SPINE. BY RICHARD BARWELL, F.R.C.S.

CERTAIN cases under the care of, certain investigations undertaken by, the author, led him to perceive that the lateral flexibility and rotatory power of the spine during movement of the limbs had not received sufficient attention either in a physiological or curative point of view. The results of his experiments might be thus briefly stated. The act of walking produces serpentine undulations of the spine. When the weight is on the left leg, and the right about to be lifted from the ground, the lumbar spine curves to the right, and the dorsal to the left. In bringing the right leg forward, the column straightens; and, when that foot is put down, the curve reverses, again becomes straight as the left foot is brought forward, and so on. Some peculiarities of these inflexions induced the author to extend the number of his observations on living persons. The lateral movements of the spine, as above described, were found constant in character, various in amount, and with each lateral bend a commensurate amount of rotation takes place. The spinous processes always incline towards the front of the vertebrae from the cord of curvature. In fact, MR. BARWELL declared the spine incapable of assuming a lateral bend without at the same time undergoing rotation, which, although perhaps in part due to the reason given by Shaw, the sideways distribution of the weight, is also caused by the lateral and posterior position of the forces which bend the spine, and more especially by the action of the semispinalis dorsi and rotatores spinæ muscles. To ascertain the amount of rotation of which the spine is normally capable, the average of ten experiments was taken. The normal rotation

to do this, I feel certain that those who are deputed to vaccinate the calf (a much more difficult operation than that in the human subject), will after a time vaccinate the infant, and thus a material reduction, instead of an increase, may be made in the incomes of the Poor-law medical officers. I throw this out for the consideration of my brethren, that steps may be taken to insure the attainment of this object, should they desire it.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GRIFFIN.

12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, Jan. 13, 1866.

R. Griffin, Weymouth, 21s.; H. T. Matthews, Horsham, 21s.; C. F. Lewis, Horsham, 5s.; W. Martin, Horsham, 10s.; R. Harrison, Kendal, 5s.; A. Cheeves, St. Germans, 5s.; H. E. Sargent, Launceston, 5s.; H. B. Goad and W. B. Norman, Portsea Island, 10s.; W. A. Raper, Portsea Island, 5s.; J. T. Allnutt, Portsea Island, 5s.; J. E. Brine, Shaftesbury, 21s.; J. H. Swaine, 10s.; W. H. R. Bennett, 10s.; J. S. Miles, 10s.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND. The following members of the College, having been elected Fellows at previous meeting of the Council, were admitted as such on January 11.

Allard, William, Tewkesbury; diploma of membership dated April 12, 1839
Taylor, Henry Sharp, Guildford; June 12, 1840

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On January 11th, 1866, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Dickson, John Thompson, Logie Lodge, Clapham Park
Fowler, William, Birmingham

APPOINTMENTS.

GRIFFITH, G. de Gorreque, M.D., elected Physician-Accoucheur to St. Saviour's Maternity Charity.
HOPKINSON, W. L., M.D., appointed Consulting-Physician to the Stamford and Rutland Infirmary.
*NEWMAN, William, M.D., appointed Surgeon to the Stamford and Rutland Infirmary.
*SHORE, Offley Bohun, M.D., appointed Physician to the Stamford and Rutland Infirmary, in the room of W. L. Hopkinson, M.D., resigned.
*SKINNER, Thomas, M.D., has been appointed one of the Medical Officers of the Lying-in Hospital, Liverpool.
*STEELE, Arthur B., Esq., appointed Lecturer on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary School of Medicine.

ROYAL NAVY.

MACLAREN, George D., Esq., to be Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals on the retired list.
MITCHELL, John F., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Pantolon*.
THOMSON, John, M.D., Staff-Surgeon, to the *Risgard*.

YEOMANRY CAVALRY.

BOROUGH, F., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon Derbyshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

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

ALGER, J. S., Esq., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 5th Buckinghamshire R.V.
GRAY, J. R., M.D., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon Liverpool Volunteer Rifle Battalion.
PEARCE, F. D., jun., Esq., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 26th Devonshire R.V.
PYCROFT, G., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st Administrative Brigade Devonshire A.V.
RUMSEY, C., Esq., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 8th Wiltshire R.V.

BIRTHS.

DAY. On January 15th, at Harlow, Essex, the wife of Robert N. Day, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
DUKES. On January 13th, at Enfield Highway, the wife of M. C. Dukes, M.D., of a son.
MORGAN. On January 11th, at Bayswater, the wife of Wm. Taylor Morgan, M.D., of a son.

SANDS. On January 10th, at Foot's Cray, Kent, the wife of J. Lee Sands, M.D., Surgeon R.N., of a son.
SOPER. On January 13th, at Stockwell, the wife of *William Soper, Esq., of a daughter.
SQUIRE. On January 12th, at Wivenhoe, Essex, the wife of S. N. Squire, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
VIPAN. On January 11th, at Uxbridge, the wife of W. H. Vipan, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

DAUGLISH, John, M.D., at Malvern, aged 41, on January 14.
GAYE. On January 14th, at Minehead, Somerset, aged 70, Elizabeth Ann, wife of William Gaye, Esq., Surgeon.
GROGAN, John, Esq., Surgeon-Major 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards, at Brittas Castle, on January 6.
HULKE, William, Esq., Surgeon, at Deal, aged 74, on January 12.
JARDINE, James B., Esq., Staff-Assistant-Surgeon Royal Army, eldest and last surviving son of *J. B. Jardine, M.D., at Chatham, aged 28, on January 10.
MACGREGOR, Sir John, M.D., K.C.B., late Inspector-General of Army Hospitals, at Ryde, aged 74, on January 13.
PAYNE, Henry, M.D., at Nottingham, aged 80, suddenly, on December 31st, 1865.
SIMPSON, David J., M.D., at Edinburgh, aged 24, on January 14.
STUART, William A. P., Esq., Senior Physicians' Assistant at University College Hospital, of typhus fever, aged 21, lately.
TRAVERS, James W. G., Esq., Surgeon, of Millpond Street, Bermondsey, aged 51, on January 13.

DR. KENNION was admitted a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London on the 22nd ult.

A COTTAGE HOSPITAL is to be started by the Marchioness of Ailesbury for the poor of the Savernake estates, etc.

A NEW HOSPITAL is about to be built for the southern district of Liverpool. The new building is estimated to cost £35,000.

DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM. A fatal case, resulting from the administration of chloroform, occurred on the 12th ult. at St. Mary's Hospital.

THE PARISIAN STUDENTS. The students of the French Faculty of Medicine have quietly recommenced operations; but no Dean has yet been appointed.

DEATH OF DR. DAUGLISH. We regret to announce the death, on Sunday last, at Great Malvern, of Dr. Daughish, whose name is identified with the manufacture of aerated bread.

MR. BENJAMIN TRAVERS. There is no truth, we are happy to announce, in the statement which has appeared in some of the daily newspapers, that the above gentleman has just died.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL. Her Majesty has consented to become the patroness of a concert in aid of the funds of the above hospital. This is the first occasion since the death of the Prince Consort on which Her Majesty has been pleased to bestow her patronage upon any sort of public entertainment.

COURT MARTIAL. The sentence passed on Private Bernard Daly, of the 40th Regiment, for his savage attack on Surgeon-Major Webb, M.B., during the time he was undergoing a medical inspection at the General Hospital, has just been promulgated. It is, that he be dismissed Her Majesty's service with ignominy, be branded with the letters "B. C.", and be kept in penal servitude for five years.

MR. T. L. PRIDHAM of Bideford, according to his annual custom for the last thirty-five years, on New Year's Day entertained at his residence about fifty-four poor old people, who partook of a liberal supply of good old English fare. The united ages of twenty-five amounted to 2,003 years, averaging 83. It is a fact, one worthy of record, that all the same party dined together on the previous occasion, and that not one who assembled then had since died. Out of the number, there were five whose ages were between 90 and 100.

DEATH OF DR. D. J. SIMPSON. We deeply regret to record the death of Dr. D. J. Simpson, eldest son of Professor Simpson, on the 14th instant, after a short illness. The loss of this highly promising young gentleman, who was in his twenty-fifth year, is, we need scarcely say, a deep affliction at home, and will be sincerely lamented by a wide circle of friends. (*Edin. Courant.*)

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. During the past week, sixty-six gentlemen have undergone their primary examinations in anatomy and physiology; of whom seventeen have been referred back to their studies for three months, being rather more than a fourth of the entire number. Of the sixty-six, it is stated that thirty-two had previously been rejected. The pass or surgical and pathological examination takes place this day (Saturday).

NEW BARONETS. The Queen has been pleased to direct letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal granting the dignity of a Baronet of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland unto each of the undermentioned gentlemen, and the respective heirs male of their bodies lawfully begotten; viz., Sir Roderick I. Murchison, of Belgrave Square, in the county of Middlesex, K.C.B.; and William Fergusson, of Spittlehaugh, in the county of Peebles, and of George Street, in the parish of St. George, Hanover Square, in the county of Middlesex, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Surgeons Extraordinary.

THE CATTLE-PLAGUE. Regarding, then, the nature of this virulent disease, we must evidently suppress it, if it can be suppressed at all, by other agencies than physic. The disease is clearly proved to be contagious, and with equal certainty is it established that it does not originate spontaneously. The infection must be carried, from or by the infected animal, to the next victim. Stop this conveyance, and the pestilence is at an end. If this stoppage is to be successful, it must be complete. If an ox is to be prevented from infecting a neighbouring herd, neither the inspector, nor the butcher, nor the herdsman or his dog, must be allowed to convey the poison. These are secondary, though most important matters. The movement of cattle from place to place is the grand source by which contagion is propagated. If the plague is to be arrested, that movement must be stopped. (*Saturday Review.*)

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. The annual meeting of this Society was held on January 2nd. The Council, in their report, congratulated the members on the continued prosperity of the Society, as evidenced by the amount of work done. The number of annual subscriptions actually received in the past year, was the largest recorded in the Society's books; and the number of new members admitted during the session, hitherto justified the hope that even this number was on the increase. The crowded condition of the Society's rooms on every night of meeting, testified to the interest and practical value of its labours. The attendance book showed the great and continuous increase; and also that while fresh members came forward, those of older standing did not cease to attend. The number of those who attended the meetings of the Society had lately averaged nearly one-third of the total number of the subscribing members. The Council referred to two minor inconveniences attendant on prosperity; viz., that the number of subjects for exhibition was usually so great, that it was hardly possible for all of them to be taken at the meeting to which they are presented; so that the discussion of previous specimens was curtailed, and some very interesting questions were passed over. Another irregularity was

that gentlemen, knowing that the reception of their specimens was somewhat uncertain, were not so careful in bringing them to the meeting as they otherwise would be. The Council were not disposed to innovate on the rules for exhibition of specimens which had hitherto worked so well; but would merely call attention to the state of the Society's business, in order that only cases of real value and interest may be produced, and that as long a notice as possible may, in all cases, be given to the secretaries. The latter would always be happy to give information to gentlemen who had announced their intention to bring specimens, if there was a probability of their exhibition being deferred; and failing this, the Council thought that the specimens ought to be brought to the rooms on the evening for which notice was given. The second inconvenience was, that a habit had arisen of bringing preparations from incomplete cases. The Council hoped that this practice would not be continued, since it introduced confusion into medical literature, and tended to diminish the value of the Society's *Transactions*. In cases lasting over long periods of time, a preparation must sometimes be exhibited before the case is complete; but the conclusion of the case should always, if possible, be recorded in the Society's *Transactions*. The order of the meetings had been somewhat disturbed by the introduction of living patients into the meeting-room, in whose presence it was impossible to continue discussion. Again, some of these living specimens were brought to the meeting without previous notice, and then priority was claimed for them over pathological specimens, in order that the patients (often children) might not be delayed. The Council therefore had ordered—1. That no living specimen shall be seen without previous notice, and that this notice shall, if possible, be given at the previous meeting of the Society. 2. That they shall always be directed to attend a quarter of an hour before the time of meeting, and wait in the room adjoining the meeting-room, in order to be examined by the members before they go into the meeting. The Council wished to discourage the practice of bringing forward drawings, cases, and preparations which had been published, or were in course of publication in other works; and had directed—"That specimens or cases previously exhibited at other societies, or the details of which have been already published, shall not be received for exhibition, except under special circumstances." The Council calls the attention of those members who bring forward microscopical specimens, to the desirability of accompanying them in all cases with a microscopical drawing. It was proposed to substitute in Law IV, the words "six miles of Charing Cross, for "ten miles of the Post Office." The total income of the Society for the year was £395:6:2, and the total expenditure £359:7:3½. The balance in hand at the commencement of the account was £87:1:1; and adding to this the excess of income over expenditure, the present balance in hand was shewn to be £122:19:11½. The annual income was made up of the following sums, viz.:—£39:14:11 derived from the sale of *Transactions*; £9:1:3, dividends on £308:11:4 invested in Consols; £28 7s. for twenty-seven entrance fees; £318 3s., the proceeds of 303 annual subscriptions. The items of expenditure included merely the usual expenses: £63 as rent for the rooms, and £229:14:2½, the expense of publishing the sixteenth volume of the *Transactions*. This sum was greater than the expenses of the fifteenth volume, but the number of copies was also greater, the increased number of members having rendered it necessary to print 450 copies instead of 400.

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. Francis Edmund Anstie. Lettsomian Lectures on "Certain Painful Affections of the Fifth Nerve."

TUESDAY. Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8 P.M. Dr. Radcliffe, "Case of Acute Uncomplicated Myocarditis"; Mr. C. H. Moore, "Arterio-venous Cyst in the Popliteal Nerve: Amputation: Recovery."

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.

DR. HEYGATE ON THE CATTLE-PLAGUE. In the course of the discussions at the late quarter sessions for the county of Derby on the Cattle-Plague, Dr. Heygate said: "Since the cattle-plague has become such a fearful scourge in this country, I have carefully studied the disease; and, though its nature is most mysterious, I am inclined to think it more closely approximates, in its fearfully contagious nature and the character of its symptoms, a species of suppressed virulent small-pox than anything else. Hence, complete isolation and vaccination should be adopted; and were I a farmer, and the disease threatened to approach the boundary of my farm, I would have every animal vaccinated. With complete isolation and vaccination, the disease, like a fire, might soon die out. Two diseased actions are seldom in force at the same time. Vaccination might divert or so modify the disease as to render it comparatively harmless."

CATTLE-PLAGUE.—SIR: I find that all accounts relating to the disease among cattle are conflicting as regards the nature of the disease, and would recommend that the Special Commissioners appointed by the Government should endeavour to find out the cause and treatment of the distemper. In the Isle of Axholme, I understand that about five hundred beasts have been destroyed by the disease, and many more are still suffering.

I am, etc., W. M. TROUSDALE, F.R.C.S. Eng.
West Butterwick, January 10th, 1866.

P.S. Vaccination has been proposed as a preventive of the disease.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. FREDERICK J. BROWN; Mr. TUBBS; Mr. T. P. BLUNT; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; Mr. T. H. BARTLEET; Mr. T. M. STONE; Dr. H. DOBELL; Mr. A. B. STEELE; Dr. JAMES WILLIAMS; Mr. GREENWAY; Dr. KENNION; Dr. HEYGATE; Dr. J. B. PITT; Dr. SHORE; Mr. TROUP; Mr. CEELY; Mr. HAYNES WALTON; THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY; Mr. S. E. STANGER; Dr. GEORGE JOHNSON; Mr. HAMILTON; Dr. R. BRUSH; Dr. T. FOX; Mr. T. JACKSON; F. C. H.; Dr. H. MAYSMOR; Dr. GIBSON; THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY; Mr. J. W. HULKE; and Dr. E. CRISP.

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