

## Association Intelligence.

### WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

A MEETING of this Branch will be held at Clarke's Castle Hotel, Taunton, on Wednesday, March 28th. Dinner at 5 o'clock, after which papers or cases will be communicated.

Gentlemen intending to be present at the dinner, or to read papers after, are requested to give notice to the Honorary Secretary.

W. M. KELLY, M.D., *Hon. Secretary.*

Taunton, March 6th, 1866.

### BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE fourth ordinary meeting of the session was held at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, on Thursday evening, March 1st, at 7.15 o'clock; F. BRITTAN, M.D., President, in the Chair. There were also present forty-five members and visitors.

*New Members.* The following new members were elected:—William Smith, Esq., Weston-super-Mare; Stephen W. Fisher, Esq., Marburgh Villa, Cotham; Alfred Burleigh, Esq., Hillside, Cotham; William Lucy, Esq., Cotham.

*The Discussion on Cattle-Plague* was resumed by Dr. W. BUDD, who exhibited very excellent paintings, photographs, and transparencies, by means of a large magic lantern, of the parts affected in the disease, showing the progress in various stages.

Dr. BEDDOE stated that, when he was at Scutari during the Crimean war, cattle-plague devastated whole villages in Turkey of their cattle, but did not affect buffaloes; also that the disease did not travel inland, probably owing to the cattle not being moved in that direction.

Mr. SWETE described an attack of cattle-plague in Writton during the last ten days. He had previously urged vaccination on all the farmers. Two hundred having attended a meeting called for the purpose, all the cattle in the neighbourhood had been satisfactorily vaccinated. The cattle-plague had been preceded by a few cases of pleuropneumonia. He considered the diphtheritic patches on the trachea as most important. He observed pustules in the stomach and intestines, and that the skin was not in any way affected. The blood was either acid or neutral, and coagulated like size. Vaccination had utterly failed. He was trying the prophylactic treatment—hyposulphite and chloride of sodium.

Mr. GREGORY, veterinary surgeon, observed that the urine was frequently acid. He had never seen the disease affect any tissue but mucous membrane. The blood of the cow was neutral in other diseases; and, when drawn, appeared different from the blood of other animals, and presented the same appearance in both health and disease. He used, in his district, a mixture of lime and chloride of lime. He thoroughly disinfected sheds, clothing of men, hides, dung, etc. When appointed inspector for Bitton District, he found the disease in six farms. The district was now free. He believed the disease to be propagated by direct contact; if by atmosphere, it must be within a very small radius. A wall between diseased and healthy animals saved the healthy.

Mr. FREEMAN considered the state of Peyer's patches in disease and health to be alike; and that a reticulated appearance was owing to the state of digestion.

The following communications were also made.

1. Dr. BRITTAN exhibited very large specimens of Cancerous Disease of the Ovaries. A very remarkable fact in the course of the disease, and one very interesting in a physiological point of view, was that the young woman, the subject of the disease, continued to menstruate throughout the complaint.

2. Mr. STREELE read a case of Puerperal Cardiac Embolism. (The paper has been received for publication.)

Dr. SWAYNE considered that the formation of the clot was caused by the condition of blood set up by disintegration and absorption of the extravasation in the back of the pelvis.

Dr. HERAPATH considered that, if the clot had been formed before death, great disturbance to the respiration and circulation would have been observed.

Mr. W. M. CLARKE described the case of a maid-servant whom he had been called to attend for colic, but whom he found to be in labour, with the infant's arm projecting from the vagina. After the administration of chloroform, turning was performed, and delivery effected. After a week, the patient experienced a fainting attack, and after a fortnight a second, which proved fatal. At the *post mortem* examination, tubercular clots of some standing, formed during the first fainting attack, were found in the aorta and in the innominate and subclavian veins, and a recent formation in the heart.

Mr. T. E. CLARK remarked, that two cases which came under his notice, and others which he had heard of, occurred after the administration of chloroform; but he could not say he considered it to be owing to the chloroform.

Other papers were postponed to a future meeting, owing to the lateness of the hour.

### NORTH WALES BRANCH: INTERMEDIATE MEETING.

THE Intermediate General Meeting of the members of this Branch was held on Friday, Feb. 23rd, 1866, at the residence of Dr. Turnour of Denbigh, who received his fellow Associates in the most hospitable and courteous manner. After partaking of luncheon, the business of the day was proceeded with, the President for the year, JOHN R. HUGHES, M.D., of Denbigh, as is usual, taking the chair. Nineteen members were present, and paid their annual subscriptions to the Branch. Dr. Edward Waters of Chester, President-elect of the British Medical Association, was also present as a visitor.

*The Secretary's and Treasurer's Accounts* were examined and found correct, particulars of which are annexed herewith.

#### Receipts.

Balance in hand on Dec. 31st, 1864 .....	1 12 10
Amount of half-crown subscriptions and arrears received from Jan. 1st, 1865, to Dec. 31st, 1865 .....	5 19 0
	<hr/> 7 11 10

#### Disbursements.

The Secretary's official expenses, as per account made up to Dec. 31st, 1865 .....	6 1 3
Balance in favour of the Branch on January 1st, 1866 .....	<hr/> £1 10 7

*Secretary's Expenses.* A resolution was unanimously adopted by the Council of the Branch, to the effect

that the Secretary be repaid all expenses incurred by him in the performance of his office.

*The Next Intermediate Meeting.* Mr. Griffith having invited the members of this Branch to Wrexham on the occasion of holding the next intermediate meeting, it was cordially agreed to accept his kind invitation and proffered hospitality, and that of Dr. Edward Williams, expressed, in his unavoidable absence from attendance at this meeting, by Mr. Griffith.

*Papers and Cases.* The following communications were made.

1. Case of Polypus Uteri (with the diseased mass). By O. Roberts, M.D., St. Asaph. Dr. Roberts met with the case about two months ago in a married female who had never had children. It consisted of dense fibrinous substance, and was of considerable size.

Dr. Turnour made some observations on the above case, and related one similar to it.

2. Transverse Fractures, more particularly one of the Femur. By T. T. Griffith, Esq., Wrexham. Mr. Griffith related some interesting points in this class of fractures, and detailed at length the diagnosis and treatment. It is to be hoped that he will publish it in the JOURNAL.

In the discussion which followed, Dr. Turnour, Mr. T. F. Edwards, Dr. Harvey Williams, and Dr. Jenkins, took part; and mentioned cases which occurred to them in their practice.

3. Case of Birth of an Acephalous Monster. By T. Eytton Jones, Esq., Wrexham.

Dr. Turnour, Mr. Griffith, Dr. Lodge, and Dr. Maugham, took part in the discussion which ensued; each gentleman relating a case or two in his practice.

4. Case of Perforation of Stomach (with the Preparation). By G. Turner Jones, L.R.C.P. Edin., Denbigh. This case occurred in a female inmate of the North Wales Asylum, aged 62. During life, there were no particular symptoms indicating the disease; and two hours before the fatal termination, she had been walking about for some time in the grounds of the Asylum, apparently quite free from pain or any urgent symptom.

Dr. Waters of Chester related interesting cases of Perforation of the Stomach in the Horse and Cow; and Dr. Turnour also mentioned a similar case in a horse.

5. Preparation of a Fibrous Tumour of the Uterus. From the Anatomical Museum of the Denbigh Infirmary. This was brought to the meeting by the directions of Dr. Turnour. It occurred to a patient in the practice of the President of the Branch (Dr. John R. Hughes of Denbigh), who had previously, at the annual meeting of the Branch held at Mold on July 5th, 1864, read an interesting paper on Embolism and Apoplexy, which, along with the above fibrous tumour of the uterus, existed in the same subject.

*New Member.* Dr. DAVIES of Holywell proposed, the PRESIDENT seconded, and it was carried—

"That Robert Hughes, Esq. (Conway), be elected member of this Branch of the British Medical Association."

*Visits.* At the conclusion of the meeting, the members proceeded to view the different objects of interest in the quaint old town of Denbigh. Some gentlemen inspected Howell's School for Girls, which is a noble, palatial building, and is stated to have cost £16,000. Mr. Griffith of Wrexham pleaded for a holiday for the young ladies, which was immediately granted. Some members walked to the Asylum, and were conducted through that large handsome structure by the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Turner Jones; and, whilst some inspected the Denbighshire

Infirmary, others preferred a stroll to the old Castle, from the summit of which a magnificent view of the Vale of Clwyd was presented.

*Dinner.* A very pleasant and successful meeting was crowned by an elegant dinner given by Dr. Turnour at his residence, which was partaken of by all the gentlemen who had attended the meeting in the morning. The reception accorded to the members by the worthy host and his amiable wife was extremely kind and hospitable.

## Reports of Societies.

### LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

THURSDAY, FEB. 8TH, 1866.

W. H. MANIFOLD, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

*Malignant Disease of the Larynx.* In bringing the case before the Society, Mr. BICKERTON said that it was one of the most interesting, anxious, and fatal of organic diseases affecting the larynx. The subject of the disease was a gentleman, otherwise perfectly healthy, who first complained of uneasiness in his throat and weakness of voice in 1854, and who continued to suffer more or less in this way till 1862, when he placed himself under Mr. Bickerton's care. He appeared to be in good health, and there was no appearance of any organic disease. There was, however, a general congestion of the mucous membrane of the throat and fauces. He improved under treatment; being, with the exception of the throat, in good health. The local treatment adopted was nitrate of silver, iodine, and astringents. In 1864, Mr. Bickerton advised the patient to go to London for change of air, and to consult a medical friend. The opinion given was, that there was a tumour growing from one of the chordæ vocales, and so interfering with the proper closure of the glottis. He returned from London, after six weeks' residence, decidedly worse; the respiratory process having become involved, and his general health consequently interfered with. On his return, Mr. Bickerton called in Mr. Bickersteth to meet him in consultation. Spasm soon occurred to such an extent as to threaten immediate death; and tracheotomy was at once performed, which gave him perfect relief. The patient continued in good health (breathing through the tube), enjoying his food, until early in November 1865, when he first complained of difficulty in swallowing. This increased, the food going down the gullet for about three inches and then returning. Beef-tea enemata were tried, as little food passed into the stomach through the œsophagus. As he was becoming thinner, Mr. Bickerton passed a No. 12 catheter into the stomach, and fed him with nourishing soup, etc., until January 25th, 1866 (forty-nine days). During this period, he never swallowed a single drop of food in any shape. He rapidly improved under this plan of feeding, and was surprised at finding that he was becoming fat. As he required feeding three times a day, Dr. Johnson, who lived next door, kindly assisted. On two or three occasions in January, Dr. Johnson sent for Mr. Bickerton, as he experienced difficulty in introducing the catheter; but, by a little alteration in the direction, it was introduced. Three weeks before his death, the patient told Mr. Bickerton that some wine and water which he had taken into his mouth oozed out from about the tracheotomy tube. In a few days, Dr. Johnson observed this, which indicated an opening between the gullet and larynx. On Jan. 25th, he was as well as usual all

## 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 28th.

Moxey, David Anderson, M.D. Edin., Turnham Green; diploma of membership dated November 16, 1865

Pugh, Richard, Llandovery, South Wales; July 25, 1865

Rickard, Frederick Martyn Stokes, Plymouth; May 9, 1865

Rickard, Henry, L.R.C.P. Ed., H.M.S. *Wellsey*, Chatham; December 6, 1859

Sarjant, Josiah, L.R.C.P. Edin., Limehouse; February 23, 1859

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On March 1st, 1866, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Body, Henry Marten, Cheriton Fitz Pain, Devon

Dailey, Charles Thomas, Leicester

Fennings, Allen, St. Ann's Road, Notting Hill

Rogers, Charles Arthur, 32, Queen Square

Smith, William, Gorton, near Manchester

Verity, Abraham Robert, Bridgend, Glamorganshire

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

Adams, George E. D'Arcy, King's College

Wilkins, John Canning, University College

### APPOINTMENTS.

\*HUMPHRY, George M., M.D., F.R.S., elected Professor of Human Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Cambridge.

NEWTON, Alfred, Esq., M.A., elected Professor of Comparative Anatomy and Zoology in the University of Cambridge.

### ROYAL NAVY.

CAMPBELL, J. M., Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Icarus*.

DOBBS, John W., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Icarus*.

HASTINGS, Robert, M.D., Staff-Surgeon, to the *Castor*.

M'MORRIS, Robert J., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Victory*, for the Royal Marine Artillery.

WILSON, William T., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Duke of Wellington*.

### MILITIA.

BRYANT, J. H., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 3rd Surrey Militia.

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

ELY, J. J., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 3rd Administrative Battalion Kent R.V.

FRASER, J. M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 5th Staffordshire R.V.

HOLMAN, C. M.D., to be Surgeon 3rd Administrative Battalion Surrey R.V.

SANKEY, G., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 3rd Administrative Battalion Kent R.V.

SPRATLY, S. M.D., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 1st Cheshire Engineer Volunteers.

STUART, R., Esq., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 4th Kent R.V.

### BIRTHS.

ANNESLEY. On March 3rd, at Devonport, the wife of F. C. Annesley, Esq., Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, of a son.

BLAGEN. On March 4th, at Stroud, the wife of Robert Blagen, L.R.C.P., of a son.

BOND. On February 25th, at Southampton, the wife of Francis T. Bond, M.D., of a daughter.

CADDY. On March 4th, at Watcombe, near Torquay, the wife of John T. Caddy, M.D., R.N., of a son.

COWELL. On February 25th, at 112, Piccadilly, the wife of Thomas W. Cowell, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

JONES. On February 24th, at Dalston, the wife of John D. Jones, M.D., of a son.

MACLEAN. On February 9th, at St. Martin's, Guernsey, the wife of Lachlan H. J. Maclean, M.D., Bengal Medical Service, of twin sons.

MADGE. On February 26th, at 32, Fitzroy Square, the wife of Henry M. Madge, M.D., of a son.

SANDERS. On March 4th, at Chigwell, Essex, the wife of \*Charles Sanders, L.R.C.P. Ed., of a son.

SARKIS. On February 17th, at Pera, Constantinople, the wife of \*Richard Sarkis, M.D., of a son.

### MARRIAGES.

HOLMES, Frank, Esq., of West Gorton, Lancashire, to Annie Elizabeth, second daughter of the late Henry Arrow, Esq., of Sevenoaks, Kent, at Manchester, on March 3.

LYALL, David, M.D., Staff-Surgeon R.N., H.M. Dockyard, Pembroke, to Fanny Anne, only daughter of George Rowe, Esq., at Havfordwest, on February 22.

\*PRICE, William P., M.D., of Margate, to Annie Eliza, eldest daughter of J. P. HAVESON, Esq., of Anerley Park, Surrey, on March 1.

RING, John, M.D., of Kilburn, to Louisa, youngest daughter of the late Reader MILLER, Esq., of Eyhurst, Kent, at Willesden, on March 3.

RYVES, Edmund W. L., Esq., to Eliza Mary, eldest daughter of James SHARP, Esq., Surgeon, Grosvenor Street West, Eaton Square, at St. George's, Hanover Square, on March 1.

TAYLOR, John, Esq., Surgeon, Ticehurst, Sussex, to Elizabeth, elder daughter of H. T. SWANN, Esq., of Withernden, Ticehurst, at St. Leonards-on-Sea, on March 1.

### DEATHS.

BIGGS. On February 25th, at Springfield, Tooting, aged 13 months, Catherine Mary, daughter of J. Strange Biggs, M.D.

BIRCH. On March 4th, at St. Helier's, Jersey, Elizabeth, wife of George Birch, M.D., R.N.

CLARKE. On March 3rd, aged 54, Emma Julia, wife of Joseph Clarke, M.D., of Guilford Street, Russell Square.

CLIFTON. On February 17th, at Hamilton, Canada West, aged 41, William Gordon, youngest son of the late \*Nathaniel Clifton, Esq., Surgeon, of Islington.

\*CONOLLY, John, M.D., D.C.L., of Hanwell, aged 71, on March 5.

GRELLIN. On February 27th, aged 59, Esther Maria, widow of the late William Grellin, M.D., of Gloucester Place, Portman Square.

LUCAS, William Owen, Esq., Surgeon, at Taunton Place, Regent's Park, aged 77, on February 25.

M'WHINNIE, Andrew Melville, Esq., formerly Assistant-Surgeon of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, at the Crescent, Blackfriars, aged 58, on February 27.

ORMEROD. On March 3rd, at Brighton, aged 8, Mary Olivia, eldest daughter; and on February 23rd, aged 2, Constance Marion, fourth daughter of \*Edward L. Ormerod, M.D.

PITT. On March 4th, at Wellesbourne, Warwick, aged 62, Elizabeth, wife of \*Richard Pitt, Esq.

\*SANKEY, William, Esq., at Dover, aged 76, on March 5.

TERRY. On March 6th, at Northampton, aged 42, Louisa, wife of \*Henry Terry, jun., Esq.

WATTERS, Henry B., L.R.C.P. Ed., at Liverpool, of typhus fever, aged 31, on March 1.

WILLAN. On February 18th, at Edinburgh, Jessie Madeline, wife of Reginald M. Willan, Esq., Surgeon, of Newton-on-Trent, Lincolnshire.

WILLIAMS, John Morgan, Esq., Surgeon, at Bridgend, Glamorganshire, aged 59, on March 1.

CENSURE OF MEDICAL MEN. At a numerously attended meeting of the Islington Medical Society, specially convened to consider the subject, the following resolutions were carried unanimously: "That it is the opinion of this meeting that, when a charge is made against a medical man before the Coroner, it is unjust that any vote of censure should be passed by the jury without the accused having an opportunity of defending himself. It is therefore a matter of regret that the Coroner for Central Middlesex should not have borne this principle in mind in certain recent cases. 2. That the preceding resolution be published in the following medical journals; the *Lancet*, *Medical Times and Gazette*, and *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*. Signed on behalf of the Meeting, W. B. KESTEVEN, Chairman."

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY. The Annual General Meeting of this Society for the Election of Officers and other Members of the Council for the ensuing year, and to receive the Auditors' Report and the Report of the Council, was held at 53, Berners Street, on the 1st inst. The following gentlemen were elected Officers and Members of Council for 1866-7. *President*—James Alderson, M.D., F.R.S. *Vice-Presidents*—Patrick Black, M.D.; Henry Bence Jones, M.D., F.R.S.; Prescott G. Hewett; C. Hewitt Moore. *Treasurers*—Henry A. Pitman, M.D.; George Busk, F.R.S. *Secretaries*—H. Hyde Salter, M.D., F.R.S.; George G. Gascoven. *Librarians*—A. P. Stewart, M.D.; Charles Brooke, F.R.S. *Other Members of Council*—A. Whyte Barclay, M.D.; E. L. Birkett, M.D.; John Clarke, M.D.; Patrick Fraser, M.D.; Richard Quain, M.D.; James Dixon; Edwin Humby; John A. Kingdon; John Marshall, F.R.S.; Alfred Poland.

DR. J. BRAXTON HICKS, F.R.S., has been elected Honorary Fellow of the Berlin Obstetrical Society.

THE MEDICAL COUNCIL, we hear, is to meet this year on May 17th, for the despatch of business.

**ACUTE RHEUMATISM.** In a leader the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* refers to a paper in the new number of *Guy's Hospital Reports* on the treatment of Rheumatic Fever with mint-water. It will be at once observed that the administration of the mint was but a cloak under which the disease was treated without drugs. The astounding fact is now, after a lapse of years, again forced upon us, that in this, as in many other acute diseases, our treatment is as futile and inefficacious as it was twenty years ago. We were always inclined to agree with the aphorism, that there was only one cure for acute rheumatism, namely, six weeks. (*Medical Press.*)

**A SURGEON KILLED ON A RAILWAY.** On Tuesday week, Mr. Featherstone, surgeon, was driving across the branch line which leads from the Midland Railway Company's works at Codnor Park to the warehouses at Ripley. The vehicle in which he was driving was covered with a tilt; and as it was crossing the rail, two empty coal-waggons, which were being shunted off a pick-up train from Chesterfield to Nottingham, ran into and smashed the conveyance to pieces, killing Mr. Featherstone on the spot. The horse and Mr. Featherstone's servant (who was driving) escaped unhurt, although the servant was so terrified that he was for a time insensible. Directly after the accident, one of the railway porters ran off to Mr. Featherstone's for assistance, being then ignorant of the fact that it was Mr. Featherstone himself who was killed.

**CONTEST FOR A CORONERSHIP.** On the 3rd inst., the Under-Sheriff for Yorkshire made the official declaration of the poll for the Doncaster District, for which there had been a severe contest between Dr. Guy, the deputy-coroner for the borough of Doncaster, and Mr. Nicholson, the clerk of the peace. The numbers were—for Dr. Guy, 582; for Mr. Nicholson, 377; majority for Dr. Guy, 205. The coronership is worth about £60 per annum, and something like £900 has been spent by both candidates. Voters were brought from a distance of seventeen miles, as far as from Crowle, on the borders of Lincolnshire. The freeholders of Thorne, 110 in number, voted unanimously for Dr. Guy; and those of Bentley and Arksey, in the centre of the district, were disqualified, owing to the name of the township not having been included in the list of other townships furnished by a former coroner at the request of Government. Mr. Walker, in proposing Dr. Guy, said: "I am not going to say that a medical man is especially qualified over a gentleman of the legal profession. But I say this: that on all occasions of this kind, when you have only two candidates before you—one a member of the legal profession, and the other a medical gentleman—you must make your choice, not because the one may be a lawyer and the other a physician, but simply on the ground of character and general qualification for the office. Now let us look at the two candidates. One has raised himself by his own industry and his own exertions; that is Dr. Guy. The one has raised himself by his own industry to the highest branch of his profession; the other is a clientless attorney. Dr. Guy is a man not only of irreproached, but of irreproachable, character. I have now known him for something like a quarter of a century; and during that time I have never heard one word said in his disparagement—[applause]—and I know that he has followed his profession with great professional skill and perseverance. [Cheers.]

I therefore, gentlemen, place Dr. Guy before you as a most eligible man to fulfil the duties of this office." Mr. Shirley, in seconding the nomination, said: "I am going to second the nomination of Dr. Guy. For many years Dr. Guy practised in Thorne. There are gentlemen here from that town to-day; and there is not a freeholder in the parish of Thorne who will not come here on Thursday to vote for Dr. Guy. If you want to know the estimate of a man, you should go to the place where he has resided. It happened to Dr. Guy that he was for fourteen years a medical officer of the Thorne Union. What do you think happened to Dr. Guy when he gave up his practice there? The bells were not set ringing to ring him out of the town; the poor whom he had attended collected their pence, and what was obtained was sufficient to purchase a very handsome silver testimonial."

**UNIFORMITY OF TYPE IN DISEASE.** A prevalent uniformity of type, more or less faint in the disorders of the human body, is observed to rule for some considerable period, and gradually to change. This type has of late years been steadily assuming as its seat the mysterious branches of the nervous system. There are many indications that this type will become more marked. It might seem perhaps fanciful to trace this very directly to such subordinate causes as increased immorality, injudicious marriages, increased drunkenness, or diminished or more fitful generation of that elementary substance ozone, as severally fixing their results in poverty of blood, which too easily establishes itself as hereditary; but there can be no doubt that the immensely accelerated rapidity of life in all its departments; the innumerable streams of duty, business, and thought, hastened by facilities of locomotion, by the intense competition and emulation in all spheres, and by the dense living of increased populations; all create a painful increase of brain-tax, which must shew itself in the spread of all hues of nervous affection, and of insanity in particular. (Dr. Kirkman, *Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the Suffolk Lunatic Asylum.*)

**EDUCATIONAL TESTS OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.** The commercial value of the diploma of the College of Surgeons is no doubt still considerable, but its scientific worth continues to be depreciated in public and professional estimation. It will not bear comparison with that of other bodies. Of all examinations in the world, that of the College of Surgeons of England, which should be one of the most honest and respectable, in the sense of its intrinsic significance, is one of the least so. It is a diploma which legally qualifies to practise, and which is required by several of the public bodies, and by the various hospital boards, but it affords an easy avenue to practice to men who need not to be even half educated. It is truly a scandal that a diploma giving a legal title to practise should be granted after an examination which includes neither medicine, midwifery, materia medica, botany, nor chemistry. The examination is, in fact, a mere farce. The Council of the College of Surgeons are sadly put to the blush by the examinations of the College of Physicians, which they affect to disregard. At these examinations not only are the candidates examined in the whole range of professional subjects, but they are taken into the wards, and tested practically in their knowledge. At the last examination they were taken to four different hospitals, and each candidate passed through a clinical examination in medical cases on one day, and in surgical on the next. The licence of the College of Physicians for general practice is an admirable and honourable diploma; it is one of which the full value is being generally recognised by the profession,

and the attitude of the College of Surgeons cannot be much longer maintained without a great loss of profit as well as of reputation. It is hardly to be believed that the chief surgical corporation of this country should continue to issue diplomas to practise on an examination which not only is limited to a fraction of the subjects necessary to every practitioner, whether surgical or medical, but does not apply any bedside tests of knowledge or practical trials of skill. (*Lancet*.)

### 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 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, 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.** Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Classification and Structure of the Mammalia."  
**WEDNESDAY.** Royal College of Physicians, 5 P.M. Dr. Fuller. Lumen Lectures. "On Certain Derangements of Digestive Organs, their Causes and Effects."—Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Classification and Structure of the Mammalia."  
**THURSDAY.** Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. Meredith, "On the Duality of Venereal Ulcers."  
**FRIDAY.** Royal College of Physicians, 5 P.M. Dr. Fuller. Lumen Lectures. "On Certain Derangements of Digestive Organs, their Causes and Effects."—Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Classification and Structure of the Mammalia."

### 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.

**UNDERSELLING IN CLUB PRACTICE.**—SIR: For upwards of twenty years past, my father and myself have been surgeons to a large benefit-club in this town. About four or five years since, it was deemed advisable by some reformers in the club to increase the medical staff; and two more were added to it. The club is one of very few in the district, who pay a moderate but fixed sum for medicine as supplied, which to me is more satisfactory than the prevalent custom of contracting at so much per head. The other day, a deputation from the club waited on me to ask me to lower my charges to those of Mr. —, hinting, that in case of my refusal, I should probably lose the club. My charges for upwards of twenty years have been:—mixture, 2s.; liniment or lotion, 1s. 6d.; box of more than two pills, 1s. 6d.; two pills, 1s. The charges of Mr. — were:—mixture, 1s. 6d.; liniment or lotion, 1s.; box, twelve or more pills, 1s.; two pills (or less than twelve), nil. There were also numerous smaller and less important differences. Of course I was obliged to consent; and indeed I was inclined to offer to attend the whole number gratuitously.

Now, sir, I consider that this gentleman, on joining himself to

the medical staff, should, in courtesy to me as the senior, have inquired what my charges were and, always had been, and have followed them strictly—which he plainly did not do.

March 1866.

I am, etc., A CLUB SURGEON.

**HOSPITAL-CARRIAGES.**—A correspondent says: "When Sir Macdonald Stephenson brought forward his scheme for special hospital carriages, I ventured in your JOURNAL to point out the extreme unfitness of the vehicle suggested for the purpose. You will remember that a coupe for the friends, patent India-rubber tires, and several other equally absurd novelties, were to be adopted. To-day the secretary for the carriage fund, in a letter to the Times, adopts all my suggestions, and gives my reasons, without one word of acknowledgment, either public or private. The carriage is to be in form like an ordinary long-bodied carriage, so that when drawn up at the houses of even the wealthiest classes, it may not attract attention as an undoubted fever conveyance; it being often a matter of serious importance to give no unnecessary alarm in a respectable house or street where fever may have occurred."

**PUBLIC ROADS.**—SIR: The enclosed letter has appeared in our local paper, and been widely circulated by me in this neighbourhood. No class of men can be more largely concerned in the matter than ourselves, and none are better endowed with the means of carrying it to a successful issue. From the temper of the Government, and the universal feeling that some radical alteration in road legislation is required, I feel convinced that if one medical man in each place or district would get up and forward a petition to Parliament, founded on the enclosed scheme, a system which disgraces our nineteenth century civilisation would soon be abolished for ever.

Frome, February 26th, 1866.

I am, etc., JOSHUA PARSONS.

The following is the scheme proposed by Mr. Parsons for abolishing turnpike trusts in England and Wales.

1. Public roads, of all descriptions, to become highways, be placed under the control of highway boards, and repaired at the expense of the county rate.
2. Every union to be divided into the requisite number of districts, over each of which a surveyor is to be appointed, who, like the Poor-law district officers, should have the sole responsibility of his own district, and be accountable to the board.
3. The salaries of such surveyors, with that of clerks and other (if any) necessary officers, to be paid by Government from the Consolidated Fund.
4. Government to reimburse itself by an extra tax on private horses and carriages, apportioned as the wisdom of Parliament may see fit, so as to impose no burden upon occupiers of land, or others who may be fairly excused.
5. Government to pay off at once, at fair valuation, the whole existing debts of turnpike trusts.
6. The existing tolls and trusts, property to become the property of the Government. The tolls to be farmed to lessees, and collected or received by excise or tax officers, until the debt has been so far reduced that the sale of toll-houses and other trust property complete the re-payment of the money advanced.

**COMMUNICATIONS** have been received from:—Mr. RICHARD GRIFFIN; Dr. F. W. GIBSON; Dr. MACKINDER; Mr. T. PRIDGIN TEALE, JUN.; Dr. SAMUELSON; Dr. GUY; Dr. DREW; Mr. WILLIAM EDDOWES; Mr. C. HOLTHOUSE; Dr. J. B. HICKS; Mr. THOMAS NUNNELLY; Dr. C. STEELE; Dr. RICHARDSON; Dr. SPENCER THOMSON; Dr. TUBBS; Mr. C. JOHNSON, JUN.; Mr. W. B. KESTVEN; Mr. T. MARTIN; Dr. H. DAY; Mr. W. J. CHURCH; THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY; Dr. W. M. KELLY; Dr. JAMES RUSSELL; A CLUB SURGEON; Dr. J. F. ANDERSON; Mr. R. V. BLYTHMAN; Dr. JOHN WADE; and Dr. J. BULLAR.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. On a New Method of applying Remedial Agents to the Cavity of the Tympanum. By E. Bishop, M.D. London: 1866.
2. On the Cattle-Disease. By Surgeon-Major Logie. London: 1866.

### ADVERTISEMENTS.

#### Chester General Infirmary.—

**WANTED,** a HOUSE-SURGEON, who must have a double qualification, Medical and Surgical, and be duly registered. Unexceptionable testimonials will be required of moral conduct. Salary to commence at £80 a year, with residence and maintenance in the House.

Also, an ASSISTANT HOUSE-SURGEON, whose qualification and testimonials must be the same as those above stated. Salary to commence at £60 a year, with residence and maintenance in the House.

Testimonials to be addressed to the "Chairman of the Board of Management," not later than the 26th March.

By order of the Board,  
Board Room, March 6, 1866.

J. JONES, Secretary.