

In a letter to Professor Hebra, Küchenmeister relates two experiments made by him to show the contagiousness of the liquid part of the variolous eruption. He first made a sheep breathe air which had traversed tubes filled with serosity taken from variolous eruption. Nothing resulted. In the second, he took the shirt worn by a variolous patient for twelve hours, and in whom the pustules had become umbilicated, and so placed it that the animal was forced to breathe air which passed through its texture. Nine days afterwards, there appeared an eruption on the inside of the animal's thighs.

Dr. Angelucci of Rome adds his testimony to that of Trousseau and others, in favour of the use of raw meat as the most efficacious of remedies in the cure of chronic diarrhoea.

The University of Prague has been closed during the war.

THE HARVEIAN ORATION.

On Tuesday last, the Harveian Oration was delivered by Dr. Paget at the College of Physicians, before a crowded audience. It is not too much to say that Dr. Paget's pure, elegant, and simple diction, charmed his hearers. No one present, however wedded to the ancient classics he might be, could have regretted that the oration was delivered in our mother tongue. The most perfect Latin composition would never have stirred the feelings and won the attention of a college auditory as this did. The profession will doubtless have the pleasure of reading it in print.

Dr. Paget cited the words of Harvey's deed of endowment—that the orator was “to exhort the members of the College to study and search out the secrets of Nature by way of experiment”; and proceeded to put his exhortation in the form of examples of the ways in which medicine had actually been advanced “by way of experiment”. He gave Harvey's discovery of the circulation in illustration of the way in which medicine had been advanced through physiology; Sydenham's work as an illustration of the direct advancement of practical medicine by the independent study of disease, and generalisation from a large experience; and Jenner's discovery of vaccination as an illustration of the advancement of practical medicine by the immediate application to medicine of a single observed fact. Commenting on vaccination, he suggested the possibility of the discovery of other analogous means of protection against other diseases.

Having by his first three examples illustrated the intellectual powers and processes by which medicine has been advanced, he gave one more instance, in illustration of the moral qualities and temper of mind that fit men for such achievements. The last instance was taken from the improvement in the treatment of insanity; and the chief heroes were Pinel and Conolly.

Association Intelligence.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Chester, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th days of August next.

President—S. J. JEAFFERSON, M.D. Cantab.

President-elect—EDWARD WATERS, M.D. Edin.

The Address in Medicine will be delivered by J. HUGHES BENNETT, M.D., F.R.S. Edin., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Clinical Medicine in the University of Edinburgh.

The Address in Surgery will be delivered by WILLIAM BOWMAN, Esq., F.R.S., etc.

The following special subjects will be introduced for discussion:—

Dr. SIBSON, F.R.S., and Mr. HOLMES: What is the influence of Hospitals on Health and Mortality.

Dr. STEWART: Is the Expectant Method to be relied upon in the Treatment of any form of Acute Disease?

Mr. ALFRED BAKER (Birmingham): Are there any trustworthy facts as to the Origin of Pyæmia?

PROFESSOR CHRISTISON, F.R.S. (Edinburgh): Observations on the Register of Deaths in Scotland.

Gentlemen intending to read papers, cases, or any other communications, are requested to give notice of the same to the General Secretary at their earliest convenience.

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, *General Secretary*.

13, Newhall Street, Birmingham, June 5th, 1866.

NORTH WALES BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the North Wales Branch will be held at Westbury Mount, Menai Bridge, the residence of R. Thomas, Esq., on Tuesday, July 3rd, at 12 o'clock noon; J. C. DAVIES, M.D., of Holywell, President, in the chair. Luncheon will be provided by Mr. Thomas. After the meeting, the members and their friends will dine together at the George Hotel, near Bangor, at 3 p.m.

Gentlemen having papers or cases to read, are requested to make an early intimation of the same to the Secretary; and also to state whether they intend to stay for dinner.

D. KENT JONES, *Hon. Secretary*.

Beaumaris, June 5th, 1866.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the West Somerset Branch will be held at the George Hotel, Ilminster, on Wednesday, July 11th, at 2.30 p.m.; G. R. BURTT, Esq., will take the chair. Dinner at 5 p.m.

Gentlemen intending to read papers or cases are requested to forward the titles of the same to the Honorary Secretary, without delay.

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

Taunton, June 11th, 1866.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
NORTH WALES. [Annual.]	George Hotel, near Bangor.	Tuesday, July 3, 12 noon.
WEST SOMERSET. [Annual.]	George Hotel, Ilminster.	Wed., July 11, 2.30 P.M.
METROPOL. COUNTIES. [Annual.]	Crystal Palace, Sydenham.	Wednesday, July 18, 3.15 P.M.
BATH AND BRISTOL. [Annual.]	Mineral Water Hos- pital, Bath.	Thurs., July 19th, 4.30 P.M.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Metropolitan Counties Branch will be held at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, on Wednesday, July 18th, at 3.15 P.M. *President* for 1865-66, EDWARD H. SIEVEKING, M.D.; *President-elect* for 1866-67, HENRY LEE, Esq., F.R.C.S. At 5.30 P.M., the members will dine together; HENRY LEE, Esq., in the chair.

A. P. STEWART, M.D. } *Hon. Secs.*
ALEXANDER HENRY, M.D. }

London, June 4th, 1866.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Bath and Bristol Branch will be held at the Mineral Water Hospital, Bath, on Thursday, July 19th, at 4.30 P.M. Dinner at the York House, at 6.30 P.M.

R. S. FOWLER, *Hon. Secretary.*

Reports of Societies.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, MAY 8TH, 1866.

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

FISSURE OF THE PALATE. BY C. H. MOORE, ESQ.

MR. MOORE introduced a young man, aged 18, who had been born with a completely fissured palate and upper lip, and with the right nostril open throughout into the mouth. The hare-lip was closed by Mr. Moore when the patient was six weeks old, and in his subsequent growth the separated alveolar ridge had come into contact without actually uniting. The fissure at present therefore began at the level of a line drawn across between the lateral incisor teeth; it widened to the breadth of nearly an inch, and ended by a double uvula. With the view of avoiding an operation, Mr. Moore requested Mr. Turner, assistant dental surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, to attempt to fill up the gap.

MR. TURNER exhibited the obturator which he had constructed. It consisted of a piece of soft or partially cooked India-rubber, adjusted to the free margins of the cleft, and overlapping both their upper and under surfaces; a pendulous portion filled up the space between the halves of the divided uvula, allowing them free action in front of it. The apparatus was fixed to one tooth on either side of the mouth by a metallic bar, which fitted across the palate. Mr. Turner thought this to be the most complete mechanical contrivance yet applied to the correction of deficiencies of the palate, and likely ultimately to supersede the ordinary plastic operation. By its use, the trouble and pain of the operation, with its attendant risks of complications and failures, were avoided; and the natural arch of the

palate, which the plastic operation more or less depressed according to the width of the fissure, was preserved. Where, moreover, the paucity of soft tissue round the fissure of the hard palate rendered complete occlusion difficult, if not impossible, the patient might, after all, be compelled to use an artificial palate. (This obturator was the invention of Dr. Kingsley, an American dentist, by whom it was introduced into this country.)

TUESDAY, MAY 22ND, 1866.

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

ON CONTINUED INOCULATION AND RECENT VIEWS ON SYPHILIS. BY GEORGE GASKOIN, M.R.C.S.

IN noticing the inoculation of syphilis on warm-blooded animals, as first effected by M. Auzias Turenne, in 1844, this paper instanced the jealous opposition which these experiments encountered at the hands of leading syphilographers in Paris. This prejudice was increased to a more active antagonism when, as he pursued his demonstrations, M. Auzias alighted on the discovery of a natural limit to the number of these inoculations. The law of immunity from the assault of a particular virus acquired by repeated inoculation of the same was proclaimed by M. Auzias in a paper addressed to the Academy of Sciences, at Paris, in 1850, and his ideas having by this time become matured by reflection, as well as by experiment, the terms of the address were so ample as to appear ostentatious: a handle was thus afforded to ill-will and to Parisian ridicule, of which those in possession of the field did not fail to take advantage, at his expense. The academical censure, however, which fell on syphilisation in France, was not a premeditated attack, but arose out of circumstances foreign to this question. A young German physician, L., having acquired syphilis experimentally, consulted both M. Auzias and M. Ricord, and these gentlemen conjointly made one or two inoculations on him, which L. repeated afterwards, a few times with great irregularity. When these sores wore temporarily a bad appearance, M. Ricord brought the patient under the eyes of the Academy of Medicine; not very considerably as far as he himself was concerned, for L.'s case was an unmistakable proof of contagion from secondary syphilis. M. Velpeau moved for a report on the case, a report which, maintained in its first view, could hardly have terminated otherwise than in a censure of M. Ricord's fundamental doctrine of the non-contagion of secondary syphilitic affections. M. Ricord, however, whose influence was then extraordinarily great in the Academy, managed to displace the question: the committee of reporters constituted themselves a jury for examining the doctrines of M. Auzias, and condemned syphilisation at a time when materials for opinion were not procurable. Messrs. Malgaigne and Depouil were severely handled for upholding the right of free inquiry, and a veto and an anathema were placed on syphilisation by the press, and by the verdict of the Academy. The decision was accepted as law by Europe, except in Piedmont and Norway. In the first-named country, the Cavalier Sperino was already, in spite of much violent opposition, in the path of clinical observation. In none of these countries did the governments lend themselves as instruments of oppression to thought or action; the barrier to progress of ideas arose purely out of professional interests and prejudice. More recently, in France, these questions had undergone revision. M. Auzias held a well-merited scientific position; the late Dr. Melchior Robert obtained permission to practise syphilisation in the

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. At a general meeting of the Fellows, held on Monday, June 25th, 1866, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, were duly admitted members of the College:—

Charles, Thomas Edmondston, M.D. Edin., 12, Elizabeth Street, Eaton Square

Congreve, Richard, 37, Southampton Row

Cumberbatch, Lawrence Trent, M.D. St. And., 12, Cadogan Place

The following gentlemen were elected fellows of the 25th instant.

Andrew, James, M.D. Oxon.

Buchanan, George, M.D. Lond.

Chadwick, Charles, M.D. Edin.

Falconer, Randle W., M.D. Edin.

Fox, Wilson, M.D. Lond.

Hewitt, W. M. Graily, M.D. Lond.

Latham, Peter Wallwork, M.D. Cantab.

Ogle, William, M.D. Oxon.

Southey, Reginald, M.B. Oxon.

Travis, Nathaniel A., M.D. Edin.

APPOINTMENTS.

SMITH, Eustace, M.B., appointed Physician-Extraordinary to the King of the Belgians.

ARMY.

GRANT, Staff-Surgeon-Major J., retiring on half-pay, to have the honorary rank of Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals.

KILGOUR, Staff-Assistent-Surgeon P., to be Assistant-Surgeon 78th Foot, *vice* S. S. Skipton, M.D.

SKIPTON, Assistant-Surgeon S. S., M.D., 78th Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon, *vice* Staff-Surgeon-Major J. Grant.

STREET, Staff-Assistent-Surgeon J. P., to be Staff-Surgeon, *vice* Staff-Surgeon-Major L. Barron, M.D.

SWETTENHAM, Surgeon-Major W. K., M.D., 5th Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon-Major, *vice* A. M. Tippetts.

TIPPETTS, Staff-Surgeon A. M., to be Surgeon 5th Foot, *vice* Surgeon-Major W. K. Swettenham.

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

HUSSEY, E. L., Esq., to be Surgeon 1st Administrative Battalion Oxfordshire R.V.

ROSE, H. C., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 3rd Middlesex R.V.

ROY, W., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon Perthshire Royal Rifle Militia.

WILKIN, J. F., Esq., to be Hon. Assistant-Surgeon 40th Kent R.V.

BIRTHS.

CHILD. On June 23rd, at Oxford, the wife of Gilbert W. Child, M.D., of a son.

DIPLOCK. On June 22nd, at Oakley Square, the wife of Thomas B. Diplock, M.D., of a daughter.

VALPY. On June 24th, the wife of W. H. Valpy, M.D., of Maddox Street, of a son, stillborn.

WELLS. On June 25th, at 3, Upper Grosvenor Street, the wife of T. Spencer Wells, Esq., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

BLAKER, Edwd. S., L.R.C.P. Ed., Portland, Dorset, to Julia, daughter of John RENNIAW, Esq., of Dunedin, New Zealand, at Broadwater, Sussex, on June 20.

EDWARDS, Walter, Esq., Surgeon, of Bampton, Devon, to Catherine Elizabeth, daughter of the late James ELLIS, Esq., of Glasgow, at Ottery St. Mary, on June 20.

GORDON, Huntly John, M.D., Surgeon-Major 69th Regiment, to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the late A. E. GREGORY, Esq., at All Saints' Church, Finchley Road, on June 21.

PARSONS, Charles, M.D., of Diver, to Venetia Digby, youngest daughter of Captain Richard SPYKE, of Kensington, on June 20.

HAIR, James, M.D., of Bures St. Mary, Suffolk, to Katherine, fourth daughter of James DALTON, Esq., of Bures House, Suffolk, on June 20.

HINCHLIFF, George, Esq., of Portsdown Road, Maida Hill, to Mary Alice, eldest daughter of John WHITMORE, M.D., of Wimpole Street, on June 21.

RICHMOND, Sylvester, M.D., of Northallerton, to Agnes Bruce, eldest daughter of the late James MAIR, M.D., of Alderstone, Middlesbrough, near Edinburgh, on June 20.

SAUNDERS, Charles Edward, M.D., of Cuckfield, Sussex, to Edith, youngest daughter of T. S. BYASS, M.D., of Cuckfield, on June 19.

WALES, John, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon Royal Artillery, to Helen Jane, only child of the late Charles LEAVISS, Esq., of Willington Northumberland, on June 20.

WEEKES, Henry, Esq., Surgeon, of Old Brompton, Kent, to Harriet youngest daughter of *Henry HOLMAN, Esq., of East Hothley Sussex, on June 21.

DEATHS.

ARGENT, Samuel, Esq., at Hinckley, Leicestershire, aged 72, on June 18.

BLENKINSOP, H., Esq., Surgeon, at Warwick, aged 53, on June 20.

*JACKSON, Henry, Esq., F.R.C.S. Eng., at Sheffield, aged 59, on June 25.

LIZARS, Alexander J., M.D., late Professor of Anatomy in the University of Aberdeen, at Ambleside, on June 12.

NEWMARCH, Henry, M.D., late Surgeon Bengal Army, at York, aged 68, on June 22.

RIDLEY, Thomas L., Esq., Surgeon, of South Shields, at Riding Mill Corbridge, Northumberland, on June 20.

SOPER. On June 22nd, aged 36, Sarah Elizabeth, only child of John Soper, M.D., of Ashburton, Devonshire.

WHITLY, David Jones, M.D., at Briton Ferry, South Wales, aged 41, on June 15.

NEW NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE INFIRMARY. The foundation stone of this institution, to be erected at Harthill near Stoke upon Trent, was laid on Monday last by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

THE LIVERPOOL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL. The Duke of Edinburgh last week laid the foundation stone of an Infirmary for Children in Myrtle-street, Liverpool, on which His Royal Highness congratulated Dr. Stephens on having been the first person to introduce an infirmary for children in the town.

TESTIMONIAL TO SIR WILLIAM FERGUSSON. The annual festival of the old students at King's College Hospital took place on the 21st inst., Dr. Druitt in the chair. The affair was rendered more interesting than on former occasions in consequence of the presentation of a superb testimonial to Sir William Fergusson, in acknowledgment of the high estimation in which he is deservedly held by the former and present pupils of King's College, many of whom attended from distant parts of the provinces.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS. The following officers for the ensuing year were elected on the 25th instant:—*Censors*: W. A. Guy, M.B.; H. Davies, M.D.; G. Johnson, M.D.; T. B. Peacock, M.D. *Treasurer*: J. Alderson, M.D. *Registrar*: H. A. Pitman, M.D. *Librarian*: W. Munk, M.D. *Examiners—Anatomy and Physiology*: C. Handfield Jones, M.B.; W. Brinton, M.D.; *Materia Medica, Chemistry, etc.*: A. W. Barclay, M.D.; A. S. Taylor, M.D.; *Principles and Practice of Medicine*: F. J. Farre, M.D.; E. H. Sieveking, M.D.; *Midwifery and the Diseases peculiar to Women*: C. West, M.D.; H. Oldham, M.D.; *Principles and Practice of Surgery*: Holmes Coote, Esq., F.R.C.S.; G. D. Pollock, Esq., F.R.C.S. *Curators of the Museum*: J. Alderson, M.D.; G. H. Roe, M.D.; W. Wegg, M.D.; F. Sibson, M.D.

CATTLE-PLAGUE IN IRELAND. We understand that the Dublin Cattle-Plague Committee have requested the Government to procure the assistance of Dr. Andrew Smart of Edinburgh, and of Professors Simonds and Gamgee of London, for the purpose of investigating any other cases of suspected Rinderpest which may arise. The *Irish Times*, in a leader on this subject, remarks: "We trust that Professor Simonds, Professor Gamgee, and Dr. Smart of Edinburgh, or, if not all three, one of them, will be commissioned to examine the cases supposed to have occurred here. All who are interested in the prosperity of Ireland will bow to the decision of the gentlemen we have named. They are men of European reputation, and of the most independent and honourable character. At present there exist very serious doubts whether we have had a case of cattle-plague in Ireland."

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. Epidemiological Society, 8 P.M. Dr. J. Burdon Sanderson, "On the Cattle-plague in its relation to Epidemiology."

WEDNESDAY. Obstetrical Society of London, 7 P.M., Council Meeting, 8 P.M., Dr. Routh, "On a New Mode of Treating Epithelial Cancer of the Cervix Uteri and its Cavity"; Dr. Tilt, "On the present Surgical Tendency of Uterine Pathologists, and on Division of the Cervix Uteri"; and other papers.

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.

ERRATUM.—In Dr. Greenhow's letter (June 16th), for "healthy secretions", read "healthy evacuations".

ERRATUM.—In Dr. T. M. Rooke's letter in last week's JOURNAL, the sentence, "but when Dr. Johnson proceeds to argue that the cause of the copiousness", etc., should be read "because the copiousness", etc.

THE POLLING of last year at the College of Surgeons resulted as follows:—Mr. Quain, 225; Mr. Paget, 205; Mr. Turner, 141; Mr. Hewitt, 118; Mr. Shaw, 58; Mr. Chas. Hawkins, 47; Mr. Erasmus Wilson, 24; and Mr. Ure, 20.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION meets this year at Nottingham, under the presidency of Mr. Grove. Dr. James Hooker gives one of the evening addresses.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.—SIR: It would be prudery on my part to pretend ignorance of the honour intended to be paid me on July 5th; and therefore permit me space to say I hope the meeting will not be confined to the donors of the testimonial only, but that all Poor-law medical officers, who can spare the time, will attend, in order that I may take that opportunity of personally consulting them as to the steps they desire to pursue in future in regard to Poor-law Medical Reform.

I am, etc., RICHARD GRIFFIN.
12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, June 25th, 1866.

The meeting will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, on Thursday, July 5th, at 3 P.M. If any Members of Parliament would honour the meeting with their presence, they would be enabled to ascertain the feeling of the profession on the subject of the medical relief of the poor.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—"Let me ask through your columns the opinion generally prevalent in the profession, as to whether it is etiquette on the part of a surgeon to call on the patients of a retiring surgeon who has disposed of his practice."

VOLUNTEER UNIFORMS.—SIR: Volunteer Surgeon has given a very apt description of volunteer medical officers' uniforms; but he will find it is six years, and not five, before an assistant-surgeon claims the relative rank of captain. I think, too, he will also learn that assistant-surgeons of corps, or honorary assistant-surgeons of separate companies forming part of a battalion only, wear the cocked hat at drills, etc., of their individual corps or companies. On regimental parades, etc., it is worn by those officers who belong to the regimental staff, and who alone are expected to fall in on the right of the line. I am, etc., MILES.
June 1866.

VOLUNTEER UNIFORMS.—SIR: Your correspondent, Volunteer Surgeon, states in his letter of May 29th, that the appointments of volunteer surgeons ought to be similar to those used in the regular service, including the cocked hat. At a meeting of the officers of the battalion to which I am attached, the question of the uniform of the medical officers was fully discussed; and it was decided that, as we were a rifle battalion, we ought to adopt the rules of the regular Rifles; and that, consequently, a shako, the same as worn by the other officers, and not a cocked hat, should be worn. I am, etc., HONORARY ASSISTANT-SURGEON.
June 19th, 1866.

VOLUNTEER UNIFORMS.—SIR: Is your correspondent, "A Volunteer Surgeon", right in stating that assistant-surgeons do not wear spurs? I see in the "Army Dress Regulations" (p. 102), that they come under the head of "mounted officers of infantry", and surely, if mounted, they wear spurs. I can also find no authority for a green plume. The same guide says, that regimental staff-officers, both of infantry and rifle regiments, wear a black one. I am, etc., A VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT-SURGEON.
June 18th, 1866.

CHRONIC EMPYEMA WITH FISTULOUS OPENINGS.—SIR: Permit me to direct Mr. Berkeley Hill's attention to a case of the above disease, reported in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of June 27th, 1865, in which the means used by him, with the addition of injections of chloride of lime and nitrate of silver, were employed with perfect success. The patient was examined a short time ago by two medical men, who declared that one side of the chest was now as healthy as the other. I am, etc., FRANCIS WHITWELL.
Shrewsbury, June 18th, 1866.

THE CURATIVE EFFORTS OF NATURE.—SIR: The writer of a leading article in the *Medical Times and Gazette*, says: "As for 'Nature', she is a mere sham. A mere cloak, a cobweb, a phantom. If it suits us, we respect her efforts; if not, we set her at naught; but in either case it is not 'Nature', but our own wisdom and experience (if we have any) that we follow. So much for Nature." This tirade against Nature and her guidance, forms a curious contrast with the following well known aphorism: "Homo naturæ minister et interpres, tantum facit et intelligit quantum de naturæ ordine re vel mente observaverit, nec amplius scit aut potest." I am disposed to think that in our estimate of Nature and her curative efforts, we shall find that Bacon is a safer guide than the author of that very remarkable article. I am, etc., NATURE MINISTER.

STATISTICS OF CANCER.—Mr. Moore has the pleasure to acknowledge the return of "Registers for Cases of Cancer", from T. Eytton Jones, Esq., Wrexham; Henry Anderton, L.R.C.P.Ed., Wavertree; J. C. Worthington, Esq., late House-Surgeon, Middlesex Hospital; T. W. Nunn, Esq., F.R.C.S., Stratford Place.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. THOMAS SKINNER; Mr. R. H. M'KEAND; Mr. G. A. BROWN; Mr. RICHARD GRIFFIN; Mr. BRADBURY; Mr. SEARLE; THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY; Mr. W. PARKER; Dr. T. M. GREENHOW; Mr. TRUSTRAM; Dr. J. STEVENSON; Dr. ROBERT FOWLER; Mr. A. BRACEY; Mr. J. H. BARTLETT; Dr. J. R. WARDLELL; Mr. J. J. EVANS; Dr. T. M. ROOKE; and Mr. C. H. MOORE.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. Notes on Health in Calcutta and British Emigrant Ships. By W. H. PEARSE, M.D. London: 1866.
2. On Diseases of the Respiratory Passages and Lungs. By W. G. BARKER, M.D. London: 1866.
3. Clinical Surgery in India. By J. FAYRER, M.D. London: 1866.
4. The Anæsthetic Art. By Walter JOHNSON, M.B. London: 1866.
5. On the Use of the Sphygmograph in the Investigation of Disease. By B. W. FOSTER, M.D. London: 1866.
6. The Convulsions of the Human Cerebrum. By W. TURNER, M.B. Edinburgh: 1866.
7. Gleet; its Pathology and Treatment. By Henry DIOL, B.A., M.D. Second Edition. London: 1866.
8. On Railway and other Injuries of the Nervous System. By J. E. ERICHSEN. London: 1866.

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