

THE

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL,

BEING THE

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JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

EDITED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY

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VOLUME I FOR 1867.

JANUARY TO JUNE.

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MDCCCLXVII.

REMARKABLE OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA IN THE MALE MOUNTJOY PRISON, DUBLIN.

THE telegraph wires startled us this week by announcing a somewhat remarkable outburst of cholera at the Male Mountjoy Convict Prison. We have received some important details which will interest our readers at this time. We are indebted for them to Dr. F. R. Cruise of Dublin.

The attack commenced on Sunday, December 23rd, 1866, the health of the establishment having been previously quite satisfactory. The epidemic lasted five days, during which time nine cases of Asiatic cholera, with collapse, occurred, and four terminated fatally.

The inhabitants of the prison consist mainly of convicts, together with about a hundred and forty untried prisoners, now confined under the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act. The great mass of the cases of cholera occurred among the convicts. Two cases only occurred among the untried prisoners; of these, one proved fatal.

The outbreak was immediately notified to the Government; and the most active sanitary measures were at once put into force, under the able direction of the medical officer of the prison, Dr. Robert McDonnell. To the promptitude and energy with which these measures were carried out, undoubtedly may fairly be attributed the rapid subjection of the attack.

We may observe, that perhaps the most interesting point in connexion with this particular visitation of cholera, is the difficulty in tracing its origin. So far, we believe, this problem is unsolved. It may be worth while briefly to discuss some of the received modes of origin of cholera, and the circumstances of the prison in reference thereto.

1. *Infection.* No case of cholera has taken place among the officers of the establishment or their families. The prisoners in the various divisions of the prison do not communicate with each other, nor with the same officers; nevertheless, cases arose simultaneously in these divisions.

2. *Water.* The water-supply is derived from the reservoirs of the north side of the city of Dublin. It is received in a supply-tank, from which it is pumped by a steam-engine to cisterns on the top of the building. This supply-tank is pumped empty every twenty-four hours. From its situation, it is absolutely secure from all risk of contamination from sewage, etc. The adjoining Female Mountjoy Convict Prison is supplied from the same tank. Withal, no case of cholera occurred in the Female Prison.

3. *Food.* The food recently supplied has, on examination, been reported of unexceptionable quality. The different divisions of the prison are not on the same diet, neither is the food for them cooked in the same vessels; nevertheless, the disease appeared in all the divisions.

So far, then, as we know (our correspondent observes), this strange visitation of cholera cannot be attributed to any known and acknowledged source—neither to infection, water, nor food. We are almost driven to place it to the account of atmospheric influence, which is, indeed, a very vague explanation, more especially in the case in point, inasmuch as this outbreak has taken place at a time when for at least a month cholera has almost ceased to exist on the north side of Dublin, and in an establishment which enjoys perhaps the healthiest situation in the city. This outbreak adds another important observation to the order of cases of which Dr. Christison relates one in our columns this week.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE vacancy in the Court of Examiners of the College of Surgeons, caused by the resignation of Mr. Cæsar Hawkins, was filled up on Thursday last by the election of Mr. Edward Cock of Guy's Hospital, the next senior candidate on the Council after the one last elected; viz., Mr. Quain. Mr. Cock became a member of the Council just ten years ago. Mr. Hawkins is still connected with the College as its representative in the General Council of Medical Education and Registration.

Association Intelligence.

FORMATION OF AN IRISH BRANCH

OF THE

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

WE are happy to state that, in consequence of the approaching meeting of the British Medical Association in Dublin in 1867, steps have been taken to organise an influential Irish District Branch. For this purpose, a meeting of members of the medical profession in Dublin was held on December 3rd, 1866, at the King and Queen's College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin; Dr. STOKES, President of the College, in the Chair. There were also present: Dr. Beatty, Dr. Tufnell, Dr. McClinck, Dr. Duke, Dr. Belcher, Dr. Kidd, Dr. Lawler, Dr. Finny, Dr. Frazer, Dr. Collis, Dr. Lyons, Dr. Benson, Dr. Head, Dr. Mapother, Dr. Hudson, Mr. Porter, Dr. P. C. Smyly, Dr. R. McDonnell, Dr. Atchill, Dr. Murray, Dr. Cruise, Dr. W. Moore, Dr. Fleming, Dr. Burke, Dr. Ringland, Dr. McSwiney, Dr. Bennett, Dr. Gordon, and Mr. William Stokes.

A letter of apology from Sir Dominic Corrigan, Bart., was read, in which he regretted much his inability to attend, and expressed his hearty co-operation in the object.

It was proposed by Dr. W. MOORE, seconded by Dr. LYONS, and agreed to—

“That this meeting resolve itself into a District Branch of the British Medical Association.”

A Reception Committee was then formed, on which the following gentlemen consented to serve:—Sir Dominic Corrigan, Bart., M.D.; Dr. Robert McDonnell; Dr. Banks; Dr. Beatty; Sir William Wilde; Dr. Lyons; Professor Law; Dr. W. Moore; Dr. Kidd; Dr. Bennett; Professor Haughton, M.D. *Local Secretaries to Reception Committee:* Dr. Tufnell and Dr. Cruise.

It was also agreed that the members present should constitute themselves as Council of the Irish Branch Association.

Mr. William Stokes, jun., was appointed Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

myself and friends this conclusion seems inevitable. Now I allow there is mendacity somewhere; where, I leave your impartial readers to judge. Secondly, at the next meeting of the Obstetrical Society, I shall move for the appointment of a committee to investigate the results of clitoridectomy in some twenty or thirty cases. Until that committee presents a report, I will desist from performing this much-abused operation without consultation with some independent practitioner. If the investigation should prove that my views have a false foundation, and that the operation is useless, I will give it up altogether. On the other hand, if the evidence be in my favour, as I believe it will be, I shall continue to practise it in proper cases.

I am, etc., I. BAKER BROWN.

136, Harley Street, January 1st, 1867.

[The speeches at the Obstetrical Society are furnished to this JOURNAL by the officers of the Society. From the Pathological Society, also, an official abstract of the proceedings is furnished to the journals by one of the Secretaries. The Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society supplies only an abstract of the papers read. We think that the course pursued at the Pathological is best suited to the interests of the Society and the profession. The notes taken at the time of debate by the Secretary present the best and most authentic report. The practice of the Obstetrical Society in obtaining reports of the speeches from the speakers, and subjecting them to revision, is clearly open to abuse; and that pursued by some journals, in reporting from the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, of inviting the speakers to write their own versions of what they said, and printing them uncorrected and unrevised, is obviously still less accurate and more open to perversion. These reports are often ludicrously unlike the actual discussion. Notes taken by an ordinary reporter at the last Obstetrical meeting would have included a great many things which the Society would not willingly have seen published. EDITOR.]

Reports of Societies.

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

ANNUAL MEETING, DECEMBER 31ST, 1866.

T. B. PEACOCK, M.D., President, in the Chair.

The Annual Report was presented. It showed that the number of members had continued to increase; and that, in proportion, greater activity and zeal had been manifested by the working members. We must defer the entire report to a subsequent number.

Officers. The result of the ballot for officers was, that John Simon, Esq., F.R.S., was elected president; and that the other gentlemen whose names were given in a recent number of the JOURNAL as being proposed to the several offices, were also elected.

Votes of thanks were passed, on the proposal of Dr. Risdon Bennett, Dr. Beigel, and Mr. C. H. Moore.

OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING, JAN. 2ND, 1867.

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

DR. BARNES delivered an address, of which we must hold over our report.

The usual votes of thanks were passed.

DR. FAIRBANK read a short paper on Fracture of the Pelvis of a Pregnant Woman.

Dr. SHORR, of Madras, read a paper on Criminal Abortion as practised in India.

The principal changes in the officers consist in the election of Dr. Hall Davis as President; Drs. Grailey Hewitt and Priestley as Vice-Presidents; Dr. Alfred Meadows as Treasurer; and Dr. Henry Gervis as one of the Honorary Secretaries.

Medical News.

THE WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

WE understand that on Tuesday, the 1st instant, at the meeting of the Governors for the nomination of candidates for the assistant-surgeoncy of the Westminster Hospital, Mr. Teevan presented himself, and stated that it was not his intention to offer himself for nomination. Mr. Francis Mason was nominated as candidate, and is, therefore, in sole possession of the field. Mr. Mason was for the usual term of three years assistant-surgeon at King's College Hospital, and is well known as an active and able young surgeon, who has had more than usual experience of the operative branches of his profession, owing to the favour of Sir William Fergusson.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On December 27th, 1866, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Goodall, Joseph, Walworth Road
Hunt, William James, Hoxton

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

King, Henry Kerwan, Guy's Hospital

As Assistant:—

Pook, William John, Mount Pleasant, Gray's Inn Road

BIRTHS.

GERVIS. On December 29th, 1866, at 12, St. Thomas's Street, Southwark, the wife of Henry Gervis, M.D., of a daughter.

GORDON. On December 19th, 1866, at Blackheath, the wife of Archibald Gordon, M.D., C.B., of a daughter.

KESTIVEN. On December 29th, 1866, at Holloway, the wife of W. B. Kesteven, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

KIDD. On December 29, 1866, at 10, Westbourne Park Terrace, the wife of Charles Kidd, M.D., of Sackville Street, of a daughter.

SWALES. On December 22nd, 1866, at Sheerness, the wife of Peter Swales, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

WATSON. On December 26, at 27, Mountague Street, Russell Square, the wife of Spencer Watson, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

DONNELLY, Arthur, M.D., Kingsland, to Louisa, youngest daughter of the late Samuel Hemming, Esq., of Piccadilly, at Hackney, on December 22nd, 1866.

HYDE, Henry, Esq., Surgeon, Indian Army, to Harriet Selina, youngest daughter of the late Ruben Roby, Esq., of Queen Street, at St. Pancras, on December 22nd, 1866.

DEATHS.

BARKER, Daniel, Esq., Surgeon, at Stockport, lately.

DANDY, Charles, Esq., Surgeon, at Rufford, Lancashire, aged 74, on December 21st, 1866.

GORDON. On December 26th, 1866, at Blackheath, aged 4, Alice Katherine, second daughter of Archibald Gordon, M.D., C.B.

GRAHAM. On December 24th, 1866, at Lamberhurst, the wife of T. H. Graham, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

RETIREMENT OF DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF HOSPITALS P. W. HOCKIN. Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals **PART W. Hockin**, of Her Majesty's Indian army, has been permitted to retire from the service on a pension of £300 *per annum*, from October 1st last. This is the first retirement that has taken place under the Secretary of State's despatch dated August 23rd, 1866. The vacancy will be filled by a deputy inspector-general of hospitals of Her Majesty's British army. (*Homeward Mail*.)

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.—Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, 2 P.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. Lettsomian Lectures. Lecture I, by John Gay, Esq., on Surgery, "Varicose Disease of the Lower Extremities."

TUESDAY. Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Mr. H. Lobb, "On Hypogastria"; Mr. T. Holmes's "Sequel to his Case of Colotomy."

WEDNESDAY. British Archaeological Association, 8.30 P.M.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * All letters and communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

COMMUNICATIONS.—To prevent a not uncommon misconception, we beg to inform our correspondents that, as a rule, all communications which are not returned to their authors, are retained for publication.

CORRESPONDENTS, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course, not necessarily for publication.

The Publisher begs to intimate that orders for JOURNALS sent by post must be accompanied by stamps for the amount. Price of each number is, by post, *sixpence*.

W. L. is thanked for the paper which he forwards. We had received a slip of the article, and notice it in another column.

J. L.—We purposely abstained from noticing the proceedings or giving additional publicity to them, believing that the act was one of pure inadvertence: and being informed that the defendant had acted for the benefit of others and without any view to profit, which would not in any way accrue to him from the arrangement.

The *Scotsman* of December 24th, 1866, has an admirable article on the reasons for the great difficulty which is at present experienced in getting candidates of good quality for the army and navy. It attributes it, with justice, to the special disadvantages and small remuneration of these departments of the army and navy. The *Scotsman* writes very truly:

"It is when a man is getting up in years that he begins to contrast his position in the public service with that of the private practitioners around him whom he remembers as his fellow students; and then it is that he is apt to come to the conclusion that twenty-four shillings a-day, after twenty years' service, even with the right to a pension, holds out advantages by no means equal to what he could have secured in private practice with ordinary steadiness and perseverance. The temptations of the service, therefore, even as it is proposed to make them, will scarcely prove sufficient to attract first-class men. A difference of half-a-crown, or even five shillings a-day, after many years of service, counts for very little in these times."

J. D. A.—The want of means of providing for dipsomaniacs is a great default in our system. No doubt, however, the advertisement for a private home for his patient, which J. D. A. has forwarded, will receive answers.

We shall be happy to give early insertion to the papers to which Dr. G. Johnson refers.

DR. DAY.—The attention of the Publisher has been called to the subject. Communications as to transmission of the JOURNAL, should be addressed to the Publisher.

Owing to great pressure upon our space, we are compelled to postpone the publication of various articles, papers, letters, and answers to correspondents.

Papers are in hand, and will appear in early numbers, from Dr. Tyler Smith, Professor Daubeny, Dr. A. T. H. Waters, Mr. Holmes Coote, Mr. T. Smith, Dr. Marion Sims, Mr. D. MacDonald, F.R.S., and others.

W. O. S. writes us a long letter on the subject of small-pox and vaccination, and calls attention to the frequency of the Vaccination Act being disobeyed. He states that he is "not at all disposed to admit that our present public vaccinators do their duty imperfectly because they are not better paid". We, of course, are not able to enter into the reasons of a contractor's default; but if W. O. S. wishes us to accept his opinion, that "vaccination is done as well as if half-a-guinea was paid for the operation", or as if grants could be claimed for proved success, we must frankly tell him that we do not feel disposed to speak positively on this point. We may, however, remind him that the evidence which has been adduced on this matter abundantly shews that the public vaccination of this country is, generally speaking, most defective in quality; and this defect can, as a rule, but be laid at the public vaccinator's door. He says that he never sends a certificate of successful vaccination to the Registrar; and, with reference to this part of his letter, we refer him to the proceedings which were taken against a medical man by the Cambridge Guardians for similar neglect, and would advise him to obey the law, unless he wish to be liable to have similar proceedings taken in his case. The account of the proceedings will be found in No. 94 of *Knight's Official Circular*, and we advise W. O. S. to read it. W. O. S. advocates the making of registrars official prosecutors, and this, we think, might be beneficial; but we cannot believe that "hundreds of medical men" would, like him, "rather not vaccinate", than vaccinate and have to send the duplicate certificate. If there are "hundreds of medical men" acting like W. O. S., how can he be surprised that small-pox should be as prevalent as he states? We are, however, inclined to think that he is wrong, and that most medical men impress upon their patients the necessity of vaccination and are always willing to perform the operation.

Mr. A. RANSOME's wish shall be at once attended to.

Dr. MAYO's letter next week.

L.R.C.P., Overton.—The initials unquestionably mean "Licentiate in Midwifery of the Royal College of Surgeons."

We are much obliged to Dr. Keeling, and shall be happy to correct the prevalent and evidently erroneous version of the case referred to.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, &c., have been received from:—Dr. Day; Mr. Pitt, Norwich; Dr. McCall Anderson; Dr. W. Bird Herapath (with enclosure); Dr. R. W. Falconer, Bath; Professor Longmore, Southampton; Mr. Holt; L. S.; Messrs. Krohne and Sesemann; Dr. R. L. Baker, Birmingham; Mr. T. H. Graham, Lamberhurst; Mr. Charles Neilson, Killala; Dr. Kidd; Mr. James Paget; Mr. Slynman; Colonel Attye; Dr. Wahlteuch; The Registrar of the Medical Society of London; Dr. J. Jarman; Mr. Henry Thompson; Mr. J. Barker, Southport; Dr. Parkes; Dr. H. Dobell; Mr. J. S. Storr; The Honorary Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; The Publisher of the "Medical Times and Gazette"; Dr. E. Hooker, Hadlow, near Tunbridge; The Secretary of the Harveian Society; Dr. Tyler Smith; Dr. Keeling, Sheffield; The Publisher of the "Lancet"; Mr. T. Holmes; Y. Z. (with enclosure); Mr. Eytton; Dr. Charles Mayo, Oxford; Mr. A. Ransome, Bowdon; Dr. Drysdale; Secretary of the Pathological Society; Mr. Morgan, Bristol; Dr. Hyde Salter.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

The Western Morning News.
The Morning Star.
The Nottingham Gazette.
The Scotsman.
The Sheffield Daily Telegraph.
The Glasgow Herald.