

which was probably due to the large loss of blood she sustained at the time of the operation.

After this truthful detail of facts, I still maintain that it cannot be said by any impartial judge that I recommended the removal of the clitoris for self-abuse! Thus Mr. Isaac B. Brown is caught in the very trap he set for another. The profession, I may observe, will do well to note that Mr. I. B. Brown is in the habit of pigeon-holing letters he receives, to be used, as occasion may require, against the writer.

It is not my intention to follow Mr. I. B. Brown step by step through the rest of his violent diatribe against me. Mr. Brown must be blind indeed when he persists in dwelling so forcibly on my visits to the "Home," as he only obtrudes on the public my peculiar competency to form the opinion I have felt it my duty to record on its merits. But let that pass: it may be very inconvenient for Mr. Brown to ride off from the general issues of the question on particular details about myself from facing the censures of an indignant profession and the verdict of an outraged public. I am bold to assert, however, that he will one day find that neither the public nor the profession will be deluded by such arts as these into a forgetfulness of the real ground of the debate. Whether "the eminent physician" of the 17th of December be "moral" or "truthful," "stupid" or "honest," "little" or "malignant," must be a matter of the smallest importance to any one but himself; I trust, however, that the day has not yet dawned when it shall be thought a thing equally insignificant that our wives and daughters are unjustly taxed with filthy habits and wantonly exposed to worse than futile operations. If the operation with which Mr. I. B. Brown is so anxious to associate his name were capable of working the good which its champion so assiduously parades, if "insanity, epilepsy, catalepsy, and hysteria in females," and other evils to which humanity is heir, could be made to yield to the knife he wields with a dexterity I am forward to admit, Mr. Brown would have no warmer supporter than myself. My contention, however, is that Mr. Isaac B. Brown's practices are founded upon theories as wrong as they are filthy, and while in no case, that I am aware of, have they effected a cure, in some they have produced the very mischief they pretend to remove or avert. My contention also is, that women have *unwittingly* been made the victims of operations of the nature of which they were wholly ignorant, and that the profession at large are bound to repudiate as strongly as they can practices fatal to their good name and fame.

Mr. Isaac B. Brown may affect to doubt that I have stated my true reason for ceasing to visit the "Home." Perhaps he may be able to explain the numerous resignations of consulting physicians and other members of the staff. Drs. Handfield Jones, Priestley, J. Hall Davis, and Messrs. Skey and Nunn, all honorable men and true, were once on the consulting staff of the Surgical Home. Why are they not there now? I am, etc.,

ROBERT GREENHALGH.

77, Grosvenor-street, January 7th, 1867.

Obituary.

MR. GILCHRIST, OF NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

It is with regret we have to announce the death of Mr. J. Gilchrist, well-known and justly esteemed in this town on account of his professional and social qualities. The rapidity with which some of our medical practitioners have been carried off from fever whilst in the act of administering to the relief and the recovery of their patients, is serious to contemplate. Still fresh in our memory are the circumstances connected with the demise of Mr. Watson, Mr. Hawthorn, Mr. Pearce, and Mr. Hardcastle. Now we are called upon to add another to the list which, during the recent visitation, has been formed. Mr. Gilchrist died yesterday morning at his residence in Newcastle, after suffering but for a few days from the effects of typhus fever, which there was every reason to conclude had seized him whilst he was attending to some of his patients in the All Saints district, where he acted as medical officer of the union with a devotedness which is borne testimony to by his death, and which will not soon be forgotten. He was 52 years of age, and enjoyed the respect of all those whom duty or the private relationships of life brought him into contact with. Facts speak for themselves, and it is unnecessary for us to say more upon the causes which lead to the prevalence of so grievous a disease, and the urgent necessity which there exists for putting in force all these appliances which we could hope would lead to its diminution. (*Newcastle Daily Chronicle*.)

Medical News.

THE HOSPITAL FOR STONE.

WE understand that Mr. Walter Coulson, having regard to the view which his colleagues have taken of his conduct in resuming office as Surgeon at St. Peter's Hospital, after receiving their support as candidate for the assistant-surgeoncy of St. Mary's Hospital under the impression that he had finally ceased to be connected with St. Peter's, has resolved to resign his appointment at St. Mary's, reserving to himself the right of presenting himself anew as candidate for the vacancy occasioned at St. Mary's by his resignation.

A CHILD HAS BEEN POISONED at the east end of London by eating mistletoe berries.

NEW-YEAR'S GIFT TO A PHYSICIAN. Dr. Bury of Chester, for many years a member of the British Medical Association, was, on New-Year's Day, presented by his friends and patients with a new brougham by an eminent maker. At the presentation, it was distinctly enunciated that the act was intended not only as an expression of their gratitude to him for benefits derived from his professional skill, but that it was also intended as a recognition by many men now of mature age, who had earlier in life first been awakened by the doctor's paternal interest in them, and under his direction, to a study of the collateral sciences, which had been effectual in leaving a life-long influence on their subsequent tastes and pursuits.

MEDICAL CHARITIES. The funds of the Royal Infirmarys of Dundee and Perth have been increased by the munificent bequests of £1,000 each from the Rev. John Spence, minister of Kinnard, who has also left £12,000 for the purposes of founding as many bursaries in sums of not less than £50 each per annum to industrious students of the Universities of St. Andrews and of Edinburgh.

THE CHOLERA has again made its appearance at St. Petersburg, particularly in the village of Tzarskoe Selo, in the suburbs of that city.

DR. LEITH has resigned the presidency of the Sanitary Commission of India, in consequence of his intention to come to England.

TRICHINISED PORK. An imperial decree has been issued prohibiting the importation of pork and preparations of pork into Russia and Poland on account of the frequent occurrence in Germany of disease from trichinæ.

THE QUEEN OF HOLLAND, while walking on Saturday from her own palace to that of her son, the Prince of Orange, slipped upon the snow, and fell with such violence that she became insensible. (*Avenir National.*)

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL. A Christmas-tree was given for the entertainment of the patients on Wednesday week. Refreshments were also provided, and the lady sisters enlivened the proceedings by performances of vocal and instrumental music.

MRS. VYSE, who murdered two of her children some years ago, and was acquitted on the ground of insanity, has just received Her Majesty's free pardon, and has returned to her family in a state of perfect health. She has been at the Fisherton House Lunatic Asylum, near Salisbury, since her trial. (*Wilts County Mirror.*)

METHYLATED MEDICINES. An important act, which passed the last Session of Parliament, came into operation on the 1st inst., whereby a penalty of £100 and confiscation of goods will be enforced against any person using methylated spirit in the manufacture of medicines for internal use for either man or beast. It may be used as an external remedy and for burning in spirit lamps.

GLASGOW LYING-IN HOSPITAL. At a meeting of the Directors of this hospital, held on the 3rd January, the following medical officers were appointed:—*Consulting Physician*, Dr. Andrew Anderson; *Consulting Surgeon*, Dr. George Buchanan; *Physician-Accoucheurs*, Dr. J. G. Wilson and Dr. R. D. Tannahill; *Assistant Physicians and Dispensary Physicians*, Dr. Donald Dewar and Dr. George Yeaman.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. Professor Huxley will deliver a course of twenty-four lectures on the osteology and dentition of the sauropsida, or reptiles and birds, commencing on Monday, the 4th February. These lectures will embrace:—The distinctive characters of the *Sauropsida*; the distinctive characters of the classes *Reptilia* and *Aves*, and of their chief subdivisions; the osteology and dentition of the *Lacertilia*, *Ophidia*, and *Ichthyosauria*; the osteology and dentition of the *Crocodylia*, *Suchosauria*, *Plesiosauria*, and *Pterosauria*; the osteology of the *Chelonina*; the osteology of the class *Aves*.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY. At the annual meeting of the Harveian Society, held on January 3rd, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:—*President*—*J. E. Pollock, M.D.; *Vice-Presidents*—T. Ballard, M.D., *W. F. Cleveland, M.D., *Ernest Hart, Esq., J. B. Walker, Esq.; *Treasurer*—Henry William Fuller, M.D.; *Hon. Secretaries*—J. Brendon Curgenven, Esq., Charles R. Drysdale, M.D.; *Council*—Victor De Méric, Esq., J. Eardley, Esq., John Evans, Esq., J. Gayleard, Esq., *R. S. Jeffs, Esq., J. Stewart Lamb, M.D., James R. Lane, Esq., J. Z. Laurence, Esq., *H. W. Lobb, Esq., Edwin Lowe, Esq., *Duncan Menzies, M.R.C.P., *J. Rushforth, Esq. An asterisk is prefixed to the names of those gentlemen who did not hold the same office the preceding year.

SIR JAMES Y. SIMPSON. We are gratified to be enabled to mention that Sir James Young Simpson was yesterday sufficiently recovered to resume his classes in the University. Since the beginning of the session he has been confined to the house, and for the most part to bed, with a severe attack of rheumatism and sciatica in the left leg, and his class, previous to the holiday, has been conducted by Dr. Keiller. Professor Simpson, in reappearing among his students yesterday, was enthusiastically received by a crowded class, which assembled in Dr. Christison's class-room, Sir James being unable to mount the stairs to his own. The learned professor expressed great pleasure in meeting his students once more, and made some jocular observations as to his recent illness. He had, he said, been told the other day by his servant that there was a rumour abroad that he (the professor) was in Saughton or Morningside. He asked his servant what reply he had made, when the latter stated that so far from being wrong in his mind, he was writing a book in bed. While he did not say that his servant's answer was strictly logical, he was happy to assure his pupils that he was quite right in his mind, although a friend had hinted that morning that, limping, as he still did, he was rather weak in his understanding. Professor Simpson went on to express his thanks to Dr. Keiller for having ably conducted his class in his absence, and to Professor Christison for the accommodation of his class-room. He then delivered the first of a course of lectures on anæsthesia. (*Edinburgh Courant.*)

ACCIDENTAL POISONING BY CARELESS DISPENSING. A child has been poisoned accidentally at Sheffield under circumstances best explained by the evidence of the principal witness at the inquest, in the report given in the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* for Wednesday, December 26th, 1866. Mr. Robert Huddleston, of Devonshire Street, came forward, and, in answer to the Coroner, said that he had no objection to give evidence. He stated that, on Friday night last, he served Annis Brown (the first witness) with medicine for the deceased child. He intended to give her fever mixture and powder to act with the medicine. The powder was intended to be a slightly purgative one, and was wrapt up in a small white paper. It had no poisonous ingredients in it, and he had made it up while the girl was waiting. In the shop at the same time there was another girl wanting another powder, but he did not make that up at the same time. It was made up by Mrs. Huddleston, and was composed of fifteen grains of morphia. It was wrapt up in a similar way to the other but not directed. He was himself called out at the moment to a child that was choking with a spice marble next door but one. Afterwards he delivered both powders to the girls and each got the wrong one. He found that which Mrs. Huddleston weighed up on the counter, and did not discover that he had made a mistake until half-past nine to a quarter to ten, when he was told by Mrs. Huddleston that he had given the wrong one for Mrs. Scott's child, and found there was something wrong. On returning home, he found that the other powder had been returned, so he was satisfied there was a mistake. He then made up some medicine to act as an emetic, and at once called in Dr. Keeling. He stayed with the child till it died, and used all the proper remedies in his power. The child died at twenty minutes past seven in the morning.—A Juryman: Had you begun to weigh the powder when you were called off?—Witness: No.—The Coroner: Were you excited by being called out to the child that was choking.—Witness: I was a little flurried. Do you not wrap poisonous drugs in

different coloured paper?—No. Was there no direction on the morphia?—No, there was not. *The party for whom it was sent objected, for certain reasons, that any writing at all should be put on the powder, and, as I knew that she was aware of the nature of it, I did not write on it.* Are you not bound by law to write "poison" on all such drugs as that?—I am not aware that such is the case. The verdict was recorded as follows:—"The child died from a quantity of morphia administered by mistake and without any felonious intent." We cannot help thinking that Mr. Huddleston is very greatly to blame in the matter, and his reason for not labelling the highly poisonous powder described, is extremely unsatisfactory. He certainly got off very easily.

SKELETON OF AN ADDER. According to the *Madrid Gazette*, among the Spanish contributions to the Paris Exhibition will be a magnificent skeleton of an adder, found on the mountain of Pardo. It was dissected by Don Manuel Sanchez. The skeleton consists of 1,045 rings—all perfect.

MESSRS. GALIGNANI'S HOSPITAL. The Messrs. Galignani have just been presented by the British government with a splendid silver epergne, with an inscription engraved on the pedestal, declaring that it has been given in acknowledgment of the benevolent spirit with which these gentlemen have, during so many years, assisted and encouraged various objects of British charity abroad, and especially of their liberal conduct in lately building an hospital for British subjects in the French capital. This beautiful work of art was accompanied by a letter from the English ambassador, Earl Cowley, couched in most flattering terms.

A SALT LAKE TRAGEDY. More than two years ago, Dr. J. King Robinson was ordered to Salt Lake city as surgeon of the United States troops stationed there. Active, clever, persevering, self-reliant, he quickly got into extensive practice outside the army, both among Gentiles and Mormons. When the troops were disbanded, the young surgeon with his young wife determined to remain. His fame had spread throughout Utah, and he was a general favourite. But he never failed to denounce Mormonism, and to avow his utter contempt for its leaders. He took charge of a Sunday school, to which, notwithstanding all threats, Mormon children would go, and would take home the tracts he gave them. He acquired some land, Indian land (containing warm sulphur springs), outside the mud wall north of Salt Lake, and was about to build; he had the land recorded in the Land-office at Washington, as "the town of warm springs." These things could not be tolerated. The result was lately telegraphed. At midnight he was summoned "to attend a sick man;" his wife wished him not to go, but he did not like to refuse. Within two hundred feet of his door the man who came for him assassinated him.

EARLY STRUGGLES OF MEDICAL MEN. Dr. John Cheyne, who, a quarter of a century ago, was by far the busiest and best employed physician in Dublin, tells us, in his interesting autobiography, that, during the first half of his second year's settlement in the Irish capital, and when he had already reached the thirty-fourth year of his age, his fees only amounted to about three guineas. Nine years subsequently, he was making £5,000 annually. Not above one or two physicians in London ever drew, I believe, a larger professional income, or, perhaps, ever advanced more early into full practice, than Dr. Chambers; yet, during the fifth year of his practice, when he was already thirty-four or thirty-five years of age, he did not receive above £211 in fees. Seventeen years

subsequently, his annual professional income is stated to have reached nearly to £9,000. His great predecessor in high London practice, Dr. Matthew Baillie, drew above £11,000 in one year; and yet, with all the interest of the Hunters and others to aid him in his outset, his first march upwards was, like that of all others, very slow and difficult, and, to quote the words of his biographer, Dr. Wardrop, "before he found himself fairly established in practice, he had been already for twelve years physician to St. George's Hospital, and for nearly twenty years a medical lecturer." Dr. Baillie's uncle, the celebrated Dr. William Hunter, who spent a large fortune, gained by his profession alone, upon the collection of that splendid museum which now enriches the University of Glasgow, was so hard pressed for money during the years of his earlier struggles in London practice, that he was obliged to postpone for a fortnight the commencement of the third season of his lectures, in consequence of not having money enough to pay the expense of the usual class advertisements. Nor have our greatest surgeons been usually more successful than these our great physicians in the first stages of their professional career. In 1788, the son of an English clergyman attended the medical classes of Edinburgh University, and lived on the third flat in Bristo Street, in a room which cost him six shillings and sixpence a week. In after life, when swaying the surgical sceptre of England, as Sir Astley Cooper, his professional income, in one single year, amounted to £23,000; and yet, during the first twelve months after he had settled down in London, and was working as a lecturer on anatomy and surgery, his receipts from private practice only amounted to five guineas. The distinguished surgeon who, by Sir Astley's death, was left at the head of the surgical school of London, Sir Benjamin Brodie, did not, as we are told in a late biographical sketch of him, get into "full practice" till 1825: yet he had been lecturing, practising, and publishing, since 1805, or for twenty long years previously. (*Leisure Hour.*)

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 Orthopedic, 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. Mr. Alfred Cooper, "On Fissure of the Rectum."
TUESDAY.	Pathological Society of London, 8 P.M.
THURSDAY.	Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. Mr. W. Adams, "On the Treatment of Hip-joint Diseases." Linnæan Society (Burlington House), 8 P.M. Dr. Cobbold, "On Parasites from the Sword-fish," and "On Experimental Researches with Trichina."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MEMBERS are reminded that it is a matter of great convenience and economy to the Association, and conduces to the efficiency of its working and to their comfort and advantage, that their subscriptions, which are now due, should be paid promptly to the Secretary, Mr. T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, New-hall Street, Birmingham.

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.

Communications as to the transmission of the JOURNAL, should be sent to Mr. RICHARDS, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C.

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

SKIN HOSPITALS AND SKIN DEPARTMENTS.

UNDER the impulse of Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson's indefatigable energy and rare clinical power, the Blackfriars Hospital for Skin-Diseases may probably become an important and frequented school for instruction in dermatology. He is about to commence a valuable course of twenty-four lectures on Skin-Diseases. We can but regret, however, that skin wards and departments are not included in the general hospitals, and that another valuable and necessary fragment of the clinical instruction of students is thus being torn away from the centres of education. When the time has actually arrived which seems to be threatened, that two or three hospitals for every disease have been developed in London, it will be necessary that our system of teaching should be completely altered; for the hospitals to which the schools are attached will be no longer adequate to the task.

MR. FURNEAUX JORDAN shall receive a proof at an early date.

DR. BREWER ON "THE AZTECS".

DR. BREWER, a candidate for parliament at Colchester, has taken a prominent part at the wedding breakfast of these two unhappy dwarfs, styled "The Aztecs". The *Daily Telegraph*, in its report, says:—

"It is an odd sort of thing to hear the speeches at a wedding breakfast turn on scientific questions suggested by the physical peculiarities of the bride and bridegroom; to see a medical gentleman rise to propose their healths, and to hear him speak of 'the really not uninteresting couple' in learned terms, with occasional references to 'Humboldt, the great cosmogonist'. The physician who spoke this funny compound of an epithalamium and a lecture on anthropology, was Dr. Brewer. He said that the ladies and gentlemen who had done the young people the honour of accepting their invitation, were more likely to arrive at a right conclusion on the subject of this marriage 'than the most learned colleges of savans who proceeded on dry physiology only'. As for the lady, he said that her attendants could tell many things which would go to prove her 'reticence and self-control', and, in fact, her decided possession of 'something very like modesty'. When the doctor had made an end of his speech, Mr. Morris complimented him—from a ready-written paper—on the scientific 'guardedness' which had characterised his remarks. The bridegroom was to have made a speech at table, but could not be 'brought up to time'; and it was only at a later period, over the coffee, that he burst into a jabbering anti-climax of nuptial oratory."

L. S. writes:—There are many gentlemen practising in England who were both graduates in medicine of British Universities and members of the London College of Surgeons prior to the passing of the Medical Act of 1858. Numbers of these are anxious to be connected with the London College of Physicians, and are willing to pass a practical examination in medicine; but not disposed to submit to one in surgery—a department of the profession they may not intend to practise, or particularly cultivate. It is most earnestly hoped that their claims will receive just consideration when the joint Committees of the London Colleges meet. It is for many reasons most desirable that such should be connected with the leading corporation in their own division of the United Kingdom; and through the powerful advocacy of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, which has hitherto done so much to advance the claims and elevate the status of medical practitioners, this could be easily accomplished.

STAMPS.—The number of stamps issued to the principal London weekly newspapers during the year ending 30th June 1866, was as follows:—*BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, 114,400; *Weekly Times*, 111,600; *Law Times*, 108,000; *Punch*, 101,500; *Athenæum*, 84,000; *Lancet*, 81,575; *Mining Journal*, 76,879; and *Homeward Mail*, 70,000.

MR. WILLIAM PARKER, Bath.—We have received the letter and enclosures, and will give them due attention.

THE *Overland Friend of India* concurs in the view which we have taken of that destructive measure of "re-organisation of the Indian Medical Service." It says:

"Doubtless, with the increase of the British executive in India, a corresponding increase in the administrative was also required. This we have always advocated. What we object to is, that the adjustment has been effected at the expense of the sister service. As the Indian executive has not been reduced, it is both unjust and impolitic to weaken the medical force upon which it depends. By depriving it of those honourable posts and the emoluments thereto attached, which were the prizes of long lives devoted to the public service, its present high and scientific character is threatened, and a lower status, looking to the future, appears to have been reached. India affords sufficiently few attractions to the man of professional talent and education; and in robbing the medical officers of that country of an equivalent to 2,67,400, of which rupees 1,56,000 falls upon Bengal, much has been done to disgust those gentlemen with the country. We see not only present irritation, loss of interest, and a feeling of total distrust in Her Majesty's Government, but, infinitely worse, future danger to the medical administration of India, by the introduction of a class of practitioners inferior in medical skill, intelligence, and social position, to the present race. Such policy is suicidal without being economic. The abolition of the rank of Principal Inspector-General will entail on the Indian Service a loss of more than a lakh of rupees per annum, whilst the reduction of inspectors and their deputies implies the forfeiture of nearly a similar amount. These superior appointments formed the temptation and attraction by which the late East India Company wisely secured the services of the best medical officers."

T. S.—Messrs. Imhof and Mukle have deserved well of the medical profession for their successful prosecution at the Old Bailey of the notorious "Sutton gang," and no doubt their services will be remembered.

DIETARY OF INVALIDS.

MR. G. VAN ABBOTT, 5, Princes Street, Cavendish Square, has forwarded for inspection a number of articles of considerable dietetic value for invalids, which well deserve the attention of the profession. Amongst them are various forms of gluten bread, biscuits, chocolate, and semola, to be used in cases of debility, diabetes, corpulence, and indigestion; Liebig's and Whitehead's extracts of beef; gluten cocoa; prepared sugar of milk for infants; "vegetable bread and milk"; Liebig's food for children in original bottles; and other similar articles. His list of dietetic preparations is very complete, and includes a considerable number of articles, of which physicians in prescribing invalid dietaries may and do avail themselves with advantage. The judgment of the practitioner will decide on the value of the various forms of food. But they are of great variety; and are, we think, hardly so much used as they would be if better known.

CORONER OF OXFORD.

SIR,—I have just seen by chance, in your paper of December 22nd, 1866, a letter signed G. L., on the subject of the Coronership of Oxford University, which seems to require a few words of explanation from me, as holder of the office.

By a charter of Charles II, the University enjoys the right of electing its own coroner, independently of the county and city; a right which may for obvious reasons be at any time one of the greatest importance. So far as I am concerned, the office is entirely unpaid, as I have declined to accept any fees. With my reasons for becoming a candidate for it, I need not trouble you; but it may be as well to mention that, when it became vacant in the course of last term, a brisk contest took place for it; but the gentleman then elected was disqualified in consequence of holding another office incompatible with the coronership. The loser on that occasion (when I was not a candidate), did not again come forward.

I am, etc., CHARLES MAYO, M.B.,
Fellow of New College, Oxford.

THE SURGICAL HOME.

DR. HOLT DUNN writes:—I would ask Dr. Greenhalgh, in fairness to myself and the other gentlemen he has met there, to state fairly what he either saw or heard, and when, to justify him in debarring his class from the particular field of instruction he and the profession from all parts of the world have been pleased to enjoy.

A WORKHOUSE PARADOX.

MR. G. GREAVES, commenting on the article with this heading which appeared in the JOURNAL of November 17th, thinks that a satisfactory solution of the problem can be given, not involving the admission that small wards are better than large ones. He says: "I am fully prepared to believe that all that is said of the puerperal inmates of the London workhouses is perfectly true; because it corresponds with my own observation. In the course of my official experience of seven-and-twenty years, I have often been struck with the success of our treatment of such patients. In the twelve months ending at last Michaelmas, ninety-seven women were delivered in the obstetric wards of the Chorlton Union Hospital, and not one of them died from any cause strictly connected with the puerperal state... A new hospital, on the separate block or pavilion plan, has recently been erected for the Chorlton Union; I ought to say, therefore, that, up to the end of last September, none of our puerperal patients had been removed to it, all having been treated in the old hospital, allowing only five hundred cubic feet to each patient...."

"I believe the difference to be entirely due to differences in the previous state of health of the women. Our patients are young, healthy, and previously well fed, and most of them bearing their first child. A very large proportion of them are domestic servants. As we have no lying-in hospitals proper in this neighbourhood, I can only compare them with the inmates of the London hospitals of that kind. They, if I am not much mistaken, are all, or nearly all, married, and most of them are multiparous. They have been, as the wives of very poor men, under-fed and over-worked; and, during the puerperal period, are weighed down by anxiety for their families.

"Those whom I have had to treat have nearly all been unmarried. The generally received opinion is, that the unmarried fare worse in labour than the married. What has been the foundation of this belief? Has it not been that unmarried women have not, in their lying-in, usually had the comforts and the attendance enjoyed by the married; that they have suffered from anxiety and mental distress; have frequently concealed their pregnant condition; and even delivered themselves secretly? When, as in this neighbourhood, a young woman on finding herself incapacitated by pregnancy from continuing her employment, is not deterred from applying for parish relief, and finds no difficulty in obtaining admission into a well-appointed workhouse infirmary, her chances of a safe delivery and of speedy recovery, are as great as those of the most favourably circumstanced married woman. She goes out at the end of her month, taking her child with her, and speedily obtains a wet-nurse's post, or returns to domestic service, or factory labour. What becomes of the child, is another and a very painful question, but one beside the object of this communication. I will only say, that I entirely agree with the opinions expressed in your leader on December 1st, 'On Wet-Nursing.'

"My experience has not corresponded with that of my London brethren, in the almost total absence from the lying-in-wards, of puerperal fevers. Besides a few sporadic cases, I have witnessed three outbreaks of that disease in an epidemic form. In one of these outbreaks there was reason to believe the poison was traceable to a case of phlegmonous erysipelas in a neighbouring ward. In another there could be little doubt that the presence of typhus in the hospital was the exciting cause. A third appeared to be due solely to overcrowding. About three years since, also, three or four women in the last month of pregnancy or very recently delivered, caught small-pox, then prevalent in the workhouse, and they all died.

"The explanation of this diversity from the results of treatment in the metropolitan workhouses, is doubtless to be found in the fact that the infectious fevers and surgical diseases are not, as a rule, treated in them. In Manchester, as we have no fever-hospital and no small-pox hospital, and as the Royal Infirmary admits only the more acute and serious medical and surgical cases, all the more chronic cases occurring among the poor go to one of the workhouses.

"Our treatment of disease generally, has on the whole been as successful as that in the London workhouse infirmaries. We have not always escaped the 'hospital diseases'. Erysipelas, pyæmia, and on one occasion something very like hospital-gangrene, have appeared in our wards.

"You have drawn the right conclusion from such facts; viz., 'that the ordinary sick of our general hospitals ought to be entirely separated from all the possible contaminating influences of fevers and surgical diseases'. I cannot, however, agree with another conclusion to which you appear to wish to conduct your readers: viz., that the overcrowding in the workhouse infirmaries has not been injurious to the health of the inmates. The arguments adduced from the obstetric wards I have shown, I think, to have no foundation, and the arguments founded on the results of treatment of general disease I believe to be equally fallacious. It is not fair to place a certain number of patients, treated in a general hospital, against the same number of the inmates of a workhouse infirmary, and to say that because a smaller number of the latter have died within a given time than of the former, therefore the latter have been the more favourably circumstanced. There is, again, the fatal want of parallelism in the cases compared. The nature of the diseases of each class must be taken into this account. A very large proportion of the inmates of a workhouse hospital are suffering from chronic disease. What must be the composition of the atmosphere of a ward containing, day and night, twenty to thirty people suffering from chronic bronchitis, or phthisis, or chronic rheumatism, or paralysis in its various forms and with its frequently disgusting consequences, and with

at the most 500 cubic feet of space to each of them? Can existence under such conditions be called life? Is it not rather a living death? Double the cubic space, and ventilate as it may then be safe to do it, and you double the activity of the vital functions, and you give a chance of more or less complete recovery."

W. T. Durham, is thanked for the useful newspaper-cutting which he forwards.

THE books and forms required under the several Lunacy Acts are published, and may be obtained of Shaw and Sons, Fetter Lane, Fleet Street.

HOSPITAL FOR STONE.

SIR,—A rumour is current that the Hospital for Stone is about to be converted into a Hospital for the Treatment of Diseases of the Genito-Urinary Organs for Males and Females, and that Mr. Baker Brown is to take office in the newly transformed institution. Can you inform me whether this report is correct? I enclose my card. I am, etc., S. J.

January 5th, 1867.

. We have no "official information" on the subject. The first part of the rumour has reached us from various sources. The second is probably an amiable joke of our distinguished correspondent, and lies rather in the region of probabilities than of fact. The combination of the Surgical Home with the Hospital for Stone would constitute a very complete thing in its way.

Dr. NORRIS (Stourbridge). The succeeding numbers will, we hope, justify and confirm the favourable verdict of our correspondent.

MEDICATING OF THE BLADDER.

SIR,—We observe in your valuable JOURNAL of last Saturday, a notice, that Professor CRAWCOUR of New Orleans has introduced into practice an instrument to apply vapours directly to the internal surface of the bladder, by a modification of Richardson's apparatus. The tube of this celebrated atomiser is simply lengthened out in the form of a catheter. May we beg the liberty to state that we made an instrument of the same kind for Dr. Richardson certainly within a month after the making of his anæsthetic spray-producer. This spray-catheter we showed at the meeting of the Obstetrical Society early last spring.

We remain, sir, your obedient servants,
KROHN & SESEMANN.

241, Whitechapel Road, December 31st, 1866.

P.S.—We enclose one of our descriptions, in which we mention the instrument for applying spray to the bladder.

"THE CASES THAT BONE-SETTERS CURE."

MR. PURDY, MR. WILKINS, and other correspondents, write to express their admiration of Mr. Paget's Lecture on the Cases that Bone-Setters Cure, in last week's JOURNAL, and to suggest that it should be re-published in a separate form. Mr. Paget is unwilling that this should be done. It will long remain, however, a *locus classicus* in our medical literature, to which practitioners, house-surgeons, and dressers, so often worried by conflict with these ignorant and troublesome persons, will turn, and rarely in vain, for refreshment, assistance, and instruction.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, &c., have been received from:—Dr. Mitchinson, Lincoln; Dr. Copland; Mr. C. F. Maunders; The Editor of the "Journal of the Society of Arts"; Mr. R. Bryden, Uffculme; Mr. T. M. Stone; Mr. Donnelly, Dublin; Dr. Henry Lewis, Folkestone; Mr. G. Gaskoin; Mr. H. H. Hayward; Mrs. Waters, Exmouth; Dr. Samelson, Manchester; The Rev. David Bell, M.D., Goole; Mr. J. S. Johnson, Croydon; Dr. Sieveking; Mr. Miller, Fulham; Dr. Tyler Smith; The Honorary Secretary of the Obstetrical Society; Mr. J. Paget; Dr. Cruise; Mr. Baker Brown; Mr. Holmes Coote; Dr. Holt Dunn; The Registrar of the Medical Society of London; Mr. W. Parker; Dr. Greenhalgh; Mr. Kimbell, Hockley Heath; Mr. R. P. Best; Dr. Lietch; Dr. Lory Marsh; Dr. J. G. Wilson; Mr. J. B. Curguen; Dr. Cobbold; Mr. Baker; The Publisher of the "Solicitors Journal"; Dr. Gairdner, Glasgow; Sir J. Y. Simpson; Dr. Tindal Robertson, Nottingham.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

Pavilion Asylums (with a Ground-Plan). By C. Lockhart Robertson, M.D. London: 1867.

The Modern Treatment of Pneumonia. By G. S. Smith. Edinburgh: 1867.

Headland on the Action of Medicines. Fourth Edition. Report of the Medical Officer of Health of the Holborn District, 1864-65.

Water Supply of London. By T. MacNeill.

The Pathology of Cholera Collapse. By Horace Jeaffreson, M.D. Special Report of Acting Medical Officer of Health, Mile End Old Town, upon the Cholera Epidemic of 1866.

St. George's Hospital Reports, vol. I. 1866.

The Newcastle Daily Telegraph.

The Edinburgh Courant.

The Solicitor's Journal.

The Glasgow Herald.