

vaccinated twice—at the tenth and twentieth years respectively. He has never, in all his forty-one years' experience, seen any case of syphilitic infection by vaccine matter. (*Berlin Klin. Woch.*, Nov. 12, 1866; *Wien. Med. Woch.*, Nov. 1, 1867.)

ADMIRALTY REPENTANCE.

WE hear with great satisfaction that the ill-devised scheme for creating a class of bonded medical recruits, to be called Naval Medical Cadets, which we announced a few weeks since, has, for the time at least, been laid aside. Had it been produced, it must have proved an entire failure, as is apparent from the strong feeling of indignant opposition to it manifested in the medical schools and throughout all branches of the medical profession, both within and out of the service. We felt sure that, when all sides of the question were fully placed before Sir John Pakington, he would at once recognise the impolicy of a measure at once so humiliating and insulting to a liberal profession, and so much at variance with sound principles of administration. It is well known that in this matter the Admiralty very unwisely listened to the advice of irresponsible persons, who had no means of ascertaining the true state of feeling in the service, and who were almost equally ill informed as to the opinions of the profession. The Admiralty will find its best advisers, first, in those practical men who are acquainted with the wants of the department to which they belong; and next, in the official heads of Colleges and recognised leaders of the medical profession, who, when consulted, take means to ascertain the actual state of opinion. We feel satisfied that the Naval Medical Service might be made a thoroughly popular service; and the elements for the changes necessary to produce such popularity are to be found in the evidence before the Committee on the Position and Pay of Army and Navy Medical Officers.

DIFFICULTIES IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY. Mr. Kempe, the Rector of St. James's, writes to complain that in that wealthy parish it is with great difficulty £500 a year can be raised in support of a dispensary which finds medical advice and drugs for about six thousand patients yearly. We presume this is the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary.

FEVER HOSPITAL. The Rev. Hugh Owen states that the admissions to the Fever Hospital during the last six months number 1,718 persons:—namely, in August, 238; September, 248; October, 298; November, 290; December, 332; and January, 312. Of the total number Islington yielded 144; St. Pancras, 139; Stepney, 117; Bethnal Green, 108; St. Luke's (Middlesex), 87; Whitechapel, 76; St. Giles, 76; Shoreditch, 73; Clerkenwell, 62; Lambeth, 53; Newington, 51; Poplar, 44; Strand, 40; Marylebone, 39; St. George-in-the-East, 32; and other places, smaller numbers, St. George, Hanover Square, giving 9. It is thus seen that fever is not restricted to any particular district. It finds congenial spots in all parts of the metropolis, and there is therefore need for vigilant attention everywhere to the sanitary condition of those places which are inhabited by the poor.

Association Intelligence.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE next meeting of this Branch will be held in the Council Room of the Midland Institute, on Thursday, February 14th, at three o'clock.

The following papers will be read:—

1. A Case of Uterine Hæmorrhage fatal with unusual rapidity. Mr. Houghton, of Dudley.
2. The Sphygmograph and Cardiograph. Dr. B. W. Foster.
3. A successful case of Ovariectomy. Mr. Sampson Gamgee.

Specimens will be shown at the commencement of the meeting.

A Council Meeting will be held at the same place at five o'clock.

T. H. BARTLEET, *Honorary Secretary.*

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

AN Ordinary Meeting of this Branch will be holden at the rooms of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, 37, Soho Square, on Friday, February 22nd, at 8 p.m., when Dr. STEWART will read a paper "On the Working of some Provisions of the Laws relating to the Public Health".

A. P. STEWART, M.D.

ALEXANDER HENRY, M.D. } *Honorary Secretaries.*

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE third ordinary meeting of the session was held at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, on Jan. 24th; J. S. BARTHELM, Esq., President, in the chair. There were also present thirty-one members.

Alteration of Law. The following resolution, proposed by Dr. TUNSTALL and seconded by Dr. FALCONER, was adopted, and substituted for No. 2 of the Rules of the Branch.

"That any gentleman wishing to join this Branch shall be proposed and seconded at any ordinary meeting; his Christian and surname, residence, and professional titles, being given in writing to the Secretaries. The circular convening the subsequent meeting, at which the ballot shall take place, shall contain the above particulars, together with the names and residences of his proposer and seconder, and shall be circulated at least ten clear days before such meeting. If one black ball in every ten votes be found, the Chairman shall declare the candidate not elected. The ballot-box shall be so placed that no person shall know how another person votes. The annual subscription to the Branch shall be 3s. 6d., due on January 1st in each year."

During the discussion on this resolution, Dr. FALCONER, Treasurer of the Association, announced that upwards of three hundred new members had joined the Association since the beginning of this year.

Five gentlemen were proposed and seconded as new members, to be balloted for at the next meeting.

Papers. Mr. F. POOLE LANSDOWN read a case of Excision of the Knee-Joint. The subject, a boy, was present, and showed a very useful limb.

Dr. W. B. HERAPATH read papers on the Use of the Spectroscope and Microspectroscope in the dis-

covery of Blood-stains; and on some Cautions arising out of the recent Sudden Deaths at the Cardiff Union Workhouse.

It was necessary to postpone Dr. Freeman's paper until the next meeting.

Reports of Societies.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

FEBRUARY 5TH, 1867.

THE NEW PHARMACOPŒICAL PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF SPIRIT OF NITROUS ETHER.

PROFESSOR REDWOOD read a paper on the vexed question of spirit of nitrous ether; his principal object being to explain the process for the preparation of this medicine which has been introduced into the new *British Pharmacopœia*. Pharmacists have long been seeking for some more satisfactory method of preparing sweet spirit of nitre than the recognised processes of the *Pharmacopœias*. Very large quantities of this medicine appear to be consumed; so much so, in fact, that its production forms, in some instances, a distinct and independent branch of manufacture; yet few medicines have been more subject than this to great variations of strength and general quality. When made strictly according to some of the *Pharmacopœia* processes, it has been found to be scarcely distinguishable from pure spirit, although much of what is met with in commerce contains an appreciable quantity of nitrous ether and solution. The strength may be considered to vary from less than one per cent. of ether up to fully ten or twelve per cent. A process was given to the *British Pharmacopœia* of 1864, which it was hoped would remove this great scandal to practical pharmacy, by affording the means of producing spirit of nitrous ether in an uniformly satisfactory state. This expectation, however, was doomed to disappointment; for the process, although appearing excellent in theory, failed to realise what was required, on account of the difficulty of producing one of the ingredients, nitrite of soda, in an uniform state of composition. Professor Redwood's process appears to be very simple and economical, and it is represented to be perfectly successful. It consists in distilling a mixture of nitric and sulphuric acids with rectified spirit in contact with fine copper wire. By this means, a comparatively small quantity of nitric acid in the mixture is made to yield nitrous ether in a constant and uniform quantity throughout the distillation; while, at the end of the process, sulphate of copper is left in the retort.

DR. BAIN, of Poplar, read a paper at the Public Health Section of the Social Science Association on Monday, "On the Cholera Epidemic in East London".

DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON. The annual general meeting of the friends and supporters of this institution was held on Friday last, at the Hospital, 32, Soho Square; Mr. Saunders presided. The report stated that the hospital continued to hold its ground, though with some difficulty. The committee regretted that the benefits of the institution could not be further extended unless it received a larger share of public patronage. It appeared from the medical statement that, during 1865, 14,275 patients had been treated, and 15,869 operations performed; and, during 1866, 15,320 patients treated, and 16,891 operations performed.

Correspondence.

CLITORIDECTOMY.

LETTER FROM W. F. PYM, ESQ.

SIR,—I am directed by the two Senior Surgeons, Mr. Baker Brown and Mr. Philip Harper, to state that, solely in deference to the opinion of the medical press on clitoridectomy, they have determined not to perform the operation in this institution, pending professional inquiry into its validity as a scientific and justifiable operation. An early insertion of this note in your JOURNAL will oblige Yours, etc.,

WOLLASTON F. PYM, *Secretary*.

London Surgical Home, Stanley Terrace, Notting Hill, W.,
February 1867.

INFANTICIDE.

LETTER FROM THOMAS RADFORD, M.D.

SIR,—In the recommendation of the Committee appointed by the Harveian Society "to draw up a Report on Infanticide, with the object of suggesting the best means of checking the crime," etc., it is stated as one means to accomplish this desirable end; "That all still-born children should be registered; and that certificates of still-birth should only be received from medical men and certified midwives—a certified midwife to be a person who has received instructions and a certificate of competency, from a lying-in hospital or maternal establishment."

If all women practising midwifery were legally compelled to attend lectures, and undergo an examination to really test their capabilities, then a great improvement over the present system would be produced. But such regulations do not exist; and we well know there are numbers of women, untaught and unexamined, who profess and practise midwifery, who are ignorant of nearly all obstetric principles. Under such circumstances, who is to account for the still-births, which will of necessity be more numerous under their hands than under the management of qualified midwives?

Now, as the object of the Committee is decidedly and most laudably to obtain an amendment of the laws relating to infanticide, it appears to me it would have been better to suggest a more effective legal control over midwives, so as to render them more responsible, both to the public and also to the legislator.

They should not alone have certificates of competency from their instructors, but they ought to be compelled to undergo an examination by a competent board, appointed for this purpose, and also for granting a legal license to practise. It may be said that great difficulties would attend such a system; so there might in the first instance, but in such a case as this, in which there are so many serious social contingencies, such trivial obstacles ought not to weigh against such a plan.

A better preliminary, and also a more full obstetric education, would doubtless be required. By such a system, midwives would be improved, and parturient women and their offspring would also be better protected from ignorance and malpractice.

Now it appears to me that it ought to be the object of every obstetric practitioner to assist in accomplishing such a desirable result, as the present class of midwives, at least the great majority of them, from their limited education, and social status, tend to degrade obstetric medicine. It is not only our

to see that permanent improvement in our mercantile marine which would enable us again to look upon it as the boast of this country.

ASYLUMS FOR THE SICK, INSANE, AND OTHER POOR IN THE METROPOLIS.

Colonel TAYLOR gave notice that on Friday, the 8th instant, Mr. Hardy would ask leave to introduce a bill for the establishment in the metropolis of asylums for the sick, insane, and other classes of the poor; and for the distribution over the metropolis of portions of the charges for poor-relief.

PROFESSORSHIPS IN DUBLIN UNIVERSITY.

Mr. LAWSON gave notice on Wednesday that he would, on Friday, move for leave to bring in a bill to open the professorships of anatomy, surgery, chemistry, and botany, in the University of Dublin to all persons, irrespective of their religious opinions.

WORKHOUSE MANAGEMENT.

Mr. OLIPHANT moved on Thursday for a copy of communications from the Poor-Law Board to the guardians of the Strand Union, the Rotherhithe, and the Paddington Unions, concerning the inquiries held by Mr. Cane and Mr. Farnall; and also for a copy of papers relating to recent complaints against the management of the Lambeth Workhouse, and the subsequent resignation of various officials.

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On January 31st, 1867, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Armstrong, Henry Edward, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Berrell, Charles, Arundel Street, Strand
Davies, Frederick Octavius, Bermondsey New Road
Ditchett, Wm. Edward, Louth, Lincolnshire
Draper, William, Grantham
Hall, Richard Strange, Leigh, near Manchester
Hirst, Samuel Charlesworth, Bowling, Bradford, Yorkshire
Iliffe, William, Nuneaton, Warwickshire
Jenkins, Robert Thomas, Brewer Street, Oxford

APPOINTMENTS.

ARMY.

BLACK, Staff-Surgeon W. T., to be Surgeon-Major, having completed twenty years' full-pay service.
GRANT, Assistant-Surgeon M., M.D., 2nd Life Guards, to be Assistant-Surgeon 9th Lancers, *vice* G. F. Spry, M.D.
IRWIN, Surgeon C. G., M.D., 15th Foot, to be Surgeon 86th Foot, *vice* H. H. Jones, M.D.
JONES, Surgeon H. H., M.D., 86th Foot, to be Surgeon 15th Foot, *vice* C. G. Irwin, M.D.
MACKINNON, Surgeon-Major W. A., C.B., 57th Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon-Major, *vice* G. B. Poppelwell.
MOSES, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon C. B., to be Staff-Surgeon, in consideration of his valuable services during the epidemic of yellow fever at the Gambia.
POPPELWELL, Staff-Surgeon G. B., to be Surgeon 57th Foot, *vice* Surgeon-Major W. A. Mackinnon, C.B.
SPRY, Assistant-Surgeon G. F., M.D., 9th Lancers, to be Assistant-Surgeon 2nd Life Guards, *vice* M. Grant, M.D.

ROYAL NAVY.

COUNTRY, Charles F. A., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Donegal*.
HOLLINGSWORTH, J. M'K., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Helicon*.
HOBBOCKS, John, M.D., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Cumberland*.
NINNIS, Belgrave, M.D., Assistant-Surgeon, to Greenwich Hospital.
RIDOUT, Charles Lyon, Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Victory*, for Haslar Hospital.
ROBERTSON, Adam, M.D., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Wellesley*.
RODGERS, John, Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Victory* (additional), for Haslar Hospital.
SUTHERLAND, George W. J., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Vestal*.
WILLING, Michael, M.D., Surgeon, to the *Cambridge*.

BIRTHS.

BROWN. On February 2nd, at Eastwood, Notts, the wife of Edward A. Brown, M.D., of a daughter.

INNES. On January 26, at Southsea, the wife of F. W. Innes, M.D., C.B., Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, of a daughter.
PEACOCK. On January 28th, at Churchinford, Devon, the wife of A. L. Peacock, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
SOPER. On February 4th, at 4, Clapham Rise, the wife of William Soper, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

DENTON, Edward R., Esq., Surgeon, of Leicester, to Emily, eldest daughter of Thomas JOHNSON, Esq., of Rotherby, Leicestershire, on January 24.

DEATHS.

GARROD. On January 31st, at 11, Harley Street, aged 19, Charles Robert, second son of Alfred B. Garrod, M.D., F.R.S.
HASLOP, George H., M.D., at Buckingham, aged 60, on January 26.
HETLEY. On February 4th, at Upper Norwood, Surrey, the Lady Charlotte Hetley, wife of Frederick Hetley, M.D.
HEWSON, John, Esq., Surgeon, at Lincoln, aged 67, on Feb. 3.
M'CANN, Nicholas, Esq., Surgeon, J.P., at Parliament Street, aged 64 on January 24.
RUSSELL, William Thomas, M.D., at Toulouse, aged 89, on Jan. 31.
SUTHERLAND, Alexander John, M.D., F.R.S., of Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, at Brighton, aged 55, on January 31.

CHOLERA has broken out in the province of Girgenti, Sicily.

HANCOCK *v.* PEATY. The hearing of the case Hancock *v.* Peaty will be resumed on Wednesday next, the parties having been unable to come to an arrangement.

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE. The next examination of candidates for commissions in the medical department of the army, will commence at Chelsea Hospital on Monday, the 11th inst.

DR. B. W. RICHARDSON, who has been proposed by Dr. Beigel for election as member of the Leopoldino Carolina Academy, in Dresden, has been elected as such.

THE HUNTERIAN ORATION. Mr. John Hilton, F.R.S., Senior Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons, will deliver the oration in memory of John Hunter, on Thursday next, at three o'clock, in the theatre of the college.

DIPSOMANIA. Dr. Forbes Winslow has announced himself as Honorary Secretary, *pro tem.*, to a proposed National Sanatorium for the Intemperate. He invites the co-operation of persons disposed to aid in the realisation of the project.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has permitted the proposed Idiot Asylum at Lancaster, for the Northern Counties, being called the Royal Albert Asylum; and has contributed to its funds one hundred guineas.

ASSASSINATION OF A PHYSICIAN. On the 23rd instant, Dr. Schwartz, the Physician of the Austrian Hospital of Constantinople, was assassinated in one of the streets at the rear of the British Embassy, Pera.

DIFFUSION OF SMALL-POX POISON. On Friday last, at the weekly meeting of the Marylebone Vestry, during a discussion respecting the locality of the iron small-pox hospital, Dr. Richardson is reported to have said that small-pox poison would not pass over more than ten yards of space of itself.

BLOOD POISONING. An inquest has been held in the City Road, on the body of Catherine Shaw, aged two years and two months. On Sunday evening, the deceased was found dead in bed, and Dr. E. Bruce said that the room did not contain sufficient cubical space for one adult, much less for the two adult persons and four children who lived in it. The deceased died from blood-poisoning, from want of proper space in which to breathe. A verdict to that effect was returned.

ODONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY. At the usual monthly meeting on February 4th, the new President, G. Ibbetson, Esq., delivered his inaugural address; and a paper was read on the Use of Carbolic Acid, in the Treatment of Diseased Teeth, by James Bate, Esq., of Brighton.

PERILS FROM POISON. A family named Wright, at Havre, has just narrowly escaped poisoning from eating food cooked in a copper utensil in which verdigris had been formed. The lives of about thirty persons have been placed in danger at Znaine, in Bohemia, by the mistake of a baker, who, inadvertently, put some arsenic into his bread, instead of giving it to the rats, as he intended. Many of these persons continue in great danger. The Frankfurt police has forbidden the sale of the fabric known as green tarlatan, as it is dyed by colours composed in great part of arsenical preparations, and is consequently very injurious to health. (*Standard.*)

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE. The Downing Professor of Medicine gives notice that he will begin a course of Lectures of Pharmacology, comprising Pharmacy, the Materia Medica, and General Therapeutics, on Thursday, the 7th inst., at 12 p.m., and that he will continue them on every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, till the end of the term. On Thursdays and Saturdays the lecture will be devoted to Pharmacy and the Materia Medica, and on Tuesdays to General Therapeutics, which part of the course may be attended independently of the other two. As no course of lectures on General Therapeutics has hitherto been specially delivered in the University, the Downing Professor of Medicine desires to state that his exposition of the subject will correspond with the Introduction of Celsus to his work *De Re Medica*, in its historical, critical, and didactical divisions. The exposition will comprise the most important phases through which the art of medicine has passed from the time of Hippocrates to the present, and will be conducted to such results as may yield rational grounds on which the practice of the art may be based. The lectures will be delivered in Downing College.

SANITARY STATE OF CAMBERWELL. At the meeting of the Camberwell Vestry on January 30th, Mr. Thornhill brought up a report from the Sewers and Sanitary Committee. The committee regretted that so large a portion of the property in the parish was in a dilapidated condition, and it was doubtful whether it would not be better to clear some of the houses altogether. In Joiners' Arms Yard, some of the people had to hang up wearing apparel to keep out wind and rain; in seven streets, there were houses without windows, and in a shocking state of dilapidation and wretchedness. In John Street, Pleasant Row, James Street, Amelia Street, there was property calling for the immediate attention of the vestry. Butler's Hall and Buildings contained wretched abodes, quite unfit, in their present condition, for human habitations. Under the head of overcrowding, they reported great grievances. With regard to water-closets and cesspools, though a vast amount of work had been carried out, much remained to be done. In Grove Cottages there was but one closet to seven houses. In another part of the same row there were three to fifteen houses; Tiger's Yard, four to fifteen, two being so situated that persons inside could be seen from the main road. Insufficient accommodation marked Joiners' Arms Yard, and North Cottages; and at 16, Wellington Street, there was neither door nor drainage. Other places had no water supply, and were in a most deficient condition. The water supply gave cause for complaint.

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, 1 1/2 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. Dr. Cockle, "On the Influence of the Discharges and Nervous Shock on the Collapse of Cholera."
TUESDAY. Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. 8 P.M., Ballot, 8.30 P.M., Dr. Dickinson, "On Amyloid Degeneration"; Dr. Gibson, "On the Condition of Urine in Epilepsy."

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.

OBSTETRICIAN.—The Midwifery Board met on Wednesday last.

CAUTION TO THE PROFESSION.

SIR,—Last Saturday evening, between six and seven o'clock, a man called at my house, and sent in a deeply black-edged card, "Dr. Simpson, Edinburgh." I found him a well dressed individual, about middle height, sallow complexion, black hair, and wearing glasses; he appeared from 40 to 50. He introduced himself as "the son of Sir J. Y. Simpson," had been staying at Torquay, and was on his way home. He had been robbed of his purse, and requested me to lend him money to send a telegram to Edinburgh, to assure the railway clerk that his fare would be forthcoming at the end of his journey; he would remit me the money, and would be happy to see me at Edinburgh; and ended by asking me what he had better do, as he had called on Drs. S., M., and B., and found them all out. I told him his story was so improbable, I must decline acceding to his request.

I wrote the same evening to Sir J. Y. Simpson, stating the facts. He very kindly replied immediately to my letter, stating that "Dr. Simpson" was an impostor; and he thought with me, that steps had better be taken to make his proceedings known to the profession, that they may be on their guard, as such a person probably would not hesitate to appropriate to himself any valuable article he might find lying about.

I am, etc.,

R. B. RUDDOCK.

Bristol, February 5th, 1867.

L.R.C.P.—Dr. Storrar and Mr. Cesar Hawkins are deputed by the Medical Council to visit the examinations held by the Royal College of Physicians.

X. L.—*De non existentibus et non apparentibus eadem est ratio*; but it is a very strange conjecture that a book circulated this week had no previous existence.

A DISTRESSING CASE.

SIR,—In your JOURNAL of the 26th ultimo, you kindly inserted an appeal on behalf of the wife and four children of a medical man, through whose illness and subsequent insanity they had become destitute. Will you permit me again to trespass on your space, for the purpose of acknowledging the following contributions, and of soliciting additional assistance for this distressing and deserving case? I am, etc., ABBOTTS SMITH, M.D.

22, Finsbury Square, E.C., Feb. 6th, 1867.

Dr. Aubin, Great Eccleston	0 10 0
J. J.	0 2 6
Dr. Jackson, Market Weighton	0 10 0
X. Y. Z.	0 10 6
Dr. Renshaw, Ashton-on-Mersey	0 10 0

MR. JONATHAN HUTCHINSON's letter on Special Departments and Special Hospitals, and Mr. Walter Coulson's letter on the Statistics of the Stone Hospital, arrived too late for insertion, but shall appear next week.

WM. JENNER.—The Small-Pox Hospital was opened in 1767, just a century ago.

PEPSINE AND COD-LIVER OIL.

SIR,—May I beg the favour of your information on the following points amongst your correspondence, which otherwise I am at a loss to obtain; viz., Is pepsine to be considered more as a medicine or as a dietetic? and is any unpleasant symptom likely to arise from its long continuance, say for several months? What means have we for ascertaining the purity and genuineness of cod-liver oil? I am, etc.,

TYRO, A CONSTANT SUBSCRIBER.

HENLEY-ON-THAMES.—The person named is not a member of the College. Many errors of a like description appear in the *Medical Directory*. Neither does the name of "Lombe, T. R.", appear in Register or Calendar. No person of this name passed the College of Surgeons in 1843.

WE are informed that Dr. Barratt and Mr. I. B. Brown, Jun., have withdrawn from their appointments at the Surgical Home for Women.

A MEMBER, Birmingham.—It is stated that only one essay has been sent. No award has yet been made. Write to the Secretary.

CASES WHICH BONE-SETTERS DO NOT CURE.

SIR,—In mentioning the subjoined case, I do so not so much to add one to the many instances of cases which bone-setters do not cure, as to put on record an accident rare, if not unexampled, in its occurrence in one so very young.

About four years ago, I held a dispensary appointment in the west of the county of Cork, and one day I got a ticket to visit a child, stated to have a broken leg. On arriving at the house, some five miles from my residence, I was told that the little fellow, a healthy boy, two years old, was knocked down, and the wheel of a light donkey-cart passed over him. The neighbouring blacksmith was called in, and pronounced one leg broken, and forthwith tied it up with sticks, as they call them; but whether the entire limb, or only one-half the extent, I did not care to inquire. After six weeks, the bandages, etc., were removed, and the child being nothing better, I was sent for. One look at him sufficed to tell me it was dislocation of the femur on the dorsum ilii. From the length of time since it had occurred, I refused to attempt reduction. Thus, through the ignorance of a blundering blacksmith, a child hitherto healthy and well formed was made a cripple almost on the threshold of life, and that life to be one of labour and toil. I am, etc.,

RICHARD N. WILLIS, M.B.T.C.D.

Rathmines, Dublin, January 1867.

JOHN CUMMING.—In 1606, a statute was framed prohibiting Roman Catholics "from practising physic, or exercising the trade of apothecaries in England."

RULES OF A SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARY.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me where I can procure the Rules of the Self-supporting Dispensary, which were advertised for sale in your paper some time back by the widow of a medical man?

I am, etc., JOHN CROSS.

Woolton, Liverpool, February 1867.

MR. A. RANSOME.—The forms will be issued with the JOURNAL of next week.

A PROVINCIAL FELLOW.—It is stated that the three members of the Council will have their re-election opposed by more than as many candidates. There are 139 members of the Association in Warwickshire, of which number 16 are Fellows of the College.

DR. RADFORD shall receive a private letter.

PERSONATION.

SIR,—I shall be obliged if you will kindly insert the following statement in your valuable columns, as I wish to bring before the members of the medical profession a case in which a grievous wrong has been inflicted, and a base fraud has been practised upon one of our number—a young man, whose delicate health compels him to reside abroad for some years.

I feel a double interest in this disgraceful affair, as the injured man, William Crisp Pechey, M.D., M.R.C.S., and L.S.A., was a pupil of mine, and the son of my friend. I knew his father well. I have known Dr. Pechey from boyhood, and I can bear testimony to his upright and honourable career.

In the spring of 1865, a man, by the name of George Milnthorpe, by false pretences and under the assumed name and qualifications of William Crisp Pechey, became assistant to the firm of Messrs. Day, Mackinlay, and Albert Day, surgeons, of Isleworth. While with them, he contracted a heavy debt to Messrs. Simmons, military and naval outfitters, 14, Cockspur Street, Pall Mall. Having pretended that he was appointed assistant-surgeon to the Yorkshire Hussars, he ordered the full-dress uniform of the corps, in which he appeared at a ball.

He absconded from Isleworth in May, and was arrested for debt by Mr. Simmons, at Topcliffe, near Thirsk, in Yorkshire, when he was lodged in York Castle. Eventually, he came to London, and was made a bankrupt in August of the same year, still under the assumed name and profession of William Crisp Pechey.

It may be as well to state that, in 1863, George Milnthorpe was assistant to a surgeon in Kent, about which time, to serve certain private purposes of his own, he pretended that Dr. Pechey had taken his diplomas with him to Australia.

The only communication Dr. Pechey ever had with George Milnthorpe was at the University of St. Andrew's, when Milnthorpe was ill and friendless, and Dr. Pechey showed him disinterested kindness.

I am most anxious to justify the name of my young friend; for, as he has been residing in New South Wales for four years, he is unable to defend himself. His mother has applied to the Commissioners of Bankruptcy, to have her son's name taken off the bankrupt list; but she has not attained that object at present. She appealed to the Registrar of the Council of Medical Registration; but he informed her he could give her no assistance. He never took up private cases; and the profession generally were under the mistake that the Council was for their protection, whereas it was for the protection of the public.

If this be the case, it is quite necessary that a friend should interfere. I am, etc., M. FOSTER, F.R.C.S.

Huntingdon, January 1867.

P.S.—A report of this case in the Court of Bankruptcy appeared in the *Times*, December 12th, 1866.

MR. HARCOURT.—The writer of the letter in the *Times* was our esteemed member.

A REFORMER.—Great changes have taken place in the examinations, and greater changes will take place with the examiners.

DIPSOMANIA.

SIR.—The communications I have received in reply to my letters have been so numerous, that I hope you will permit me to use your JOURNAL as a vehicle in which to convey my thanks to the gentlemen who have kindly written to me.

I am, etc., ROBERT T. H. BARTLEY.

Berkeley Square, Bristol, February 1867.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, ETC., have been received from:—

Mr. John Cross, Woolton, Liverpool; Mr. Joseph Thompson, jun., Nottingham; Dr. Cocker, Blackpool, Lancashire; Mr. Furneaux Jordan, Birmingham; Dr. William Budd, Bristol; Mr. Hussey, Oxford (with enclosure); Mr. T. M. Stone; Dr. A. T. H. Waters, Liverpool (with enclosure); The Registrar-General; Mr. Berkeley Hill; Dr. W. S. Playfair; Mr. W. Soper; Mr. Donnelly; Professor Redwood; The Pharmaceutical Society; The Secretary of the Health Department of the Social Science Association; Mr. Benson Baker; Dr. E. Symes Thompson; Dr. Bartley, Bristol; Dr. Radford, Manchester; Dr. Charlton Bastian; Dr. Maudsley; The Secretary of the Epidemiological Society; Dr. W. Fairlie Clarke; Mr. W. Morrant Baker; Mr. A. Ransome, Bowdon; Professor Maclean, Netley (with enclosure); Mr. Pym, Secretary of the Surgical Home; Mr. Harry Leach (with enclosure); Dr. D. Williams, Liverpool; Tyro; Mr. John Marshall; Mr. John Gamgee (with enclosure); Mr. Poole; Dr. Henry Marshall, Clifton; Mr. R. B. Ruddock, Bristol; Mr. Thomas Orton; Mr. T. H. Bartlett, Birmingham; Mr. F. W. Pittocke; Mr. A. Peacock; Dr. Abbotts Smith; Dr. Graily Hewitt; Dr. Carr; Mr. W. J. Burgess; The Hon. Sec. of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; Mr. Witten; Dr. Holman; Mr. Nash; Dr. Brown, Chatham; Dr. G. F. Blandford; Dr. Kidd; Mr. T. O'Connor, March.