

Tavern, among whom were Earl Granville, the Bishops of Oxford and Lichfield, Chief Justice Bovill, Lord Justice Cairns, Mr. Beresford Hope, M.P.; the Presidents of the Medical Council, and of the College of Physicians; Drs. Bryson, Daldy, Farre, Barnes, and nearly all the Council of the College of Surgeons.

Association Intelligence.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

An Ordinary Meeting of this Branch will be held 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.

The next ordinary meeting will be held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday, March 7th, at 7 P.M.

R. S. FOWLER, Hon. Secretary.

MIDLAND BRANCH: HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The Half-yearly Meeting of this Branch was held in the Board-room of the Lincoln County Hospital on Friday, Jan. 18th, 1867, at 7 P.M.; S. LOWE, Esq., President, in the Chair.

The President addressed the Branch.

President for 1867-68. A letter from Mr. A. Dolman was read, notifying the appointment of Dr. Hitchman of Mickleover as President for the ensuing year.

Papers. The following papers were read.

1. Case of Foreign Body in the Trachea; with Remarks. By T. Sympson, Esq.
2. Case of Profuse Haemorrhage from the Lung, with Expulsion of Hydatids. By T. Sympson, Esq.
3. Notes of a Successful Case of Ovariotomy performed by S. Lowe, Esq. By S. Mills, Esq. This case brought forward some discussion as to the best mode of treating the pedicle.

Secretary. Dr. Mitchinson resigned the office of Honorary Secretary; and Dr. Harrison was appointed his successor.

A most agreeable and instructive evening, terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the President, who afterwards entertained the members at his residence.

New Member. Mr. J. H. Quin, House-Surgeon of the Lincoln General Dispensary, was elected a member.

METROPOLITAN WORKHOUSES. A parliamentary paper, which has just been issued, shows that £784,559 has been spent, under the authority of the Poor-Law Board, in the building of workhouses in the metropolitan districts. The amount authorised to be expended in the alteration and the enlargement of workhouses in the same districts has been £284,930. Under the two heads of "workhouses built" and "workhouses enlarged" the total expenditure amounts to £1,069,489. This sum is exclusive of the value of property in workhouses provided before the Poor-Law Amendment Act of 1834, and many of which are still retained for the use of the unions and parishes to which they belong. The value of these is very great.

Correspondence.

SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS IN GENERAL HOSPITALS.

LETTER FROM JONATHAN HUTCHINSON, Esq.

SIR,—You ask me to explain how I hope that special institutions will be the means of encouraging special departments at general hospitals. My reply may be given very briefly. Special institutions afford immense facilities for obtaining quickly a good knowledge of their subjects, and they thus increase the number of those who possess much knowledge, and take an interest in the speciality.

There is no want of the material on which to practise or from which to teach. What we want are trained observers and teachers. When these exist in sufficient number to come into healthy and liberal competition with each other, we shall soon find special departments springing up at our general hospitals. This is rapidly taking place as regards ophthalmology; and, as respects the other specialities, it is certain to follow in due time.

We want also a more wide-spread interest on the part of our students in the subjects of specialities—a faith that something more is to be learnt than is taught in the usual routine. This interest and this faith can, *me judice*, nowhere be so easily excited and increased as at a special hospital. It is, perhaps, only a temporary condition of things; and special hospitals will prove, I trust, the pioneers of better things, in the way of more detailed classification at our general hospitals. It is, however, of no use to force a movement on prematurely; and, if special departments should be hastily originated, they would probably (indeed, I fear some do so) only languish on and disappoint their promoters.

Will you permit me, sir, in connexion with this most important subject, to propose some work for your able editorial pen? *Make our examining bodies attend to the practical details of special branches of medicine and surgery.* When they do this, students will seek to learn them, and our hospitals will undertake to teach them. How rarely, at the College of Surgeons, is any question in ophthalmology asked! and who ever heard of a student being examined in diseases of the skin?

I am, etc., JONATHAN HUTCHINSON.
Finsbury Circus, February 1867.

HOMEOPATHY *versus* LEGITIMATE PHYSIC IN THE TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.

SIR,—I had a conversation lately with a very sensible lady who saw much of cholera last summer, and who was actively engaged in nursing the sick poor in one of the large towns in the north of England. She said to me, "I am sure that the homeopathic practitioners were more successful in treating cholera than were the regular doctors. I do not believe that the homeopathic medicines cured the people, but they did no harm, and many patients got well without hindrance; whereas most of the regular doctors did positive harm by the free use of brandy and opium." She went on to say, "There was one practitioner in particular, an elderly gentleman, who lost nearly all his patients under this opiate and stimulant treatment; but I verily believe that he would rather lose his own life than change his opinions and his practice." I have repeated this as nearly as possible in the narrator's words; and it appears to

years residence in the East, he did so—as surgeon, receiving the honorary rank of deputy-inspector-general of hospitals. His reward was in the good he did; and the name of Gibson, associated, as it was, with that of Goldsmid, Wingate, and Frere, in connection with the Revenue Survey of Bombay, will be long remembered in that presidency.

Medico-Parliamentary.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Friday, February 8th.

SICK POOR OF THE METROPOLIS.

MR. HARDY explained the provisions of his Bill for the improved accommodation of the sick poor of the metropolis, prefacing it by an elaborate review of past legislation, and of the various inquiries into the subject. From these he showed that the chief improvements requisite were greater cubical space, increased ventilation, and more complete classification of the poor; and, assuming that he had to deal with about 34,000 persons, including children, he proposed to obtain these improvements by placing all the imbeciles in separate establishments, by removing all children above two years to separate schools, and by providing new accommodation for 2000 lunatics, and for 700 or 800 fever and small-pox patients, either by erecting new buildings or hiring old ones. The infirmaries for the remaining sick poor would be placed under separate boards of management, for many of the evils in their condition sprang from their being managed under a system originally intended for the ordinary poor; and of these Boards one-third of the members would be nominated by the Poor Law Board from persons resident in the district or union, rated at not less than £100 a year. By this means he hoped to secure more efficient inspection, and to give facilities for training nurses and for educating medical officers. For the relief of the out-door sick he proposed to establish central dispensaries; and to require that the medical officers, instead of making up their own medicines, should in all cases give prescriptions. The Bill also provided that the Local Acts in the metropolis (ten in number) should be repealed, and that the whole metropolis should be placed under the Poor-Law Board. Mr. Hardy next discussed the equalisation of Poor Rates, pointing out various objections to the principle, and intimated that, though he could not consent to equalise the metropolitan rates, the Bill would throw on the common fund the charges for lunatics, fever, and small-pox patients, medical officers, dispensaries, and medicines, registration, vaccination, and the maintenance of children at school. To illustrate the effect of the distribution of these charges, £60,000 in amount, he mentioned that, while it would add 3½d in the pound to the rates of the City of London Union, it would relieve St. George's, Southwark, of one shilling in the pound, and would not amount to more than a penny rate over the whole metropolis. The last feature of the scheme—which altogether was very favourably received by the House—was a power to the Poor Law Board to appoint proper officers where the Guardians refused or neglected to do it.

MR. AYRTON, Lord ENFIELD, DR. BRADY, MR. LOCKE, and Alderman LUSK made some general remarks in approval of the principle of the Bill, and leave was then given to bring it in.

Tuesday, February 12th.

SCURVY.

In reply to Mr. HANBURY TRACY, Sir S. NORTH-

COLE said: The attention of the Board of Trade has been directed to the case of the seamen recently admitted to the *Dreadnought* with scurvy, and an inquiry has been ordered into the circumstances. That inquiry is now taking place. I may mention that it has for some time past been the practice of the Board of Trade to direct the shipping masters of the different ports to report all cases of seamen landing ill of scurvy. We have, however, no special information as to the number of such seamen who take refuge in sailors' homes or in lodging-houses. In the ports, however, the case is different, and the results of the inquiries that had been made were laid before Parliament last Session. More recent papers relating to the same subject will be shortly laid upon the table. In regard to the colonial and consular ports, we have not the same means of obtaining information. A correspondence in reference to this matter has been going on with the Indian Government, and the papers will be laid before Parliament. We hope before long to be able to introduce some provisions to meet this very melancholy case, and to apply a stronger control over the causes which seem to render the disease of scurvy prevalent.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND. The following members of the College, having undergone the necessary examinations, were admitted Licentiates in Midwifery at a meeting of the Board, on February 6th.

ARNOLD, John, L.R.C.P., Demerara; diploma of membership dated January 24, 1867
BARRICK, Eli James, M.D. Victoria College, Toronto; Jan. 22, 1867
CASCAEDON, John, M.D. Victoria, Toronto; Jan. 23, 1867
COOMBS, Rowland Hill, L.S.A., Bedford; July 26, 1866
CROOKER, Titus Cummins, M.D. Victoria College, Toronto; January 23, 1867
DRAPER, William, Grantham; May 9, 1865
HARVEY, James D'Arcy, Plymouth; November 15, 1865
HENSMAN, Arthur, Northampton; November 14, 1866
HUNT, Wm. James, L.R.C.P. & L.S.A., Hoxton; March 28, 1858
ROLPH, John W., M.D. Victoria College, Toronto; not a member
WILLIAMS, Joseph Arthur, M.D. Victoria College, Toronto, Culoden, Canada West; January 22, 1867

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On February 7th, 1867, the following Licentiate was admitted:—

FAGGE, Herbert William, Hythe, Kent

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

Lewis, Charles, Guy's Hospital

APPOINTMENTS.

ANDERSON, J. G., L.R.C.P. Edin., appointed Resident Obstetric Officer to St. Mary's Hospital.
EDWARDS, G. N., M.D. Cantab., F.R.C.P., to be Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, vice Dr. Jeaffreson, deceased.

DEATHS.

BRUCE, William, M.D., late of Madras, at Kensington Crescent, aged 75, on February 7.
DAVIES, Robert, Esq., Surgeon, at 53, Gray's Inn Road, aged 73, on February 11.
HACon, On February 6th, at Hackney, Clara, wife of Edward D. HaCon, Esq., Surgeon.
HEY, On January 28th, at Leeds, aged 49, Martha Jane, wife of Samuel Hey, Esq., Surgeon.
MOXEY, On February 7th, at Turnham Green, Isabella Anderson, daughter of D. A. Moxey, M.D.
POLLARD, Charles F., Esq., Surgeon, at Brompton Crescent, aged 49, on February 2.
SCORESBY-JACKSON, Robert E., M.D., at Edinburgh, on February 1.
VESSEY, Richard Murray, Esq., Staff-Assistant-Surgeon H.M. Indian Army, at Bombay, on January 5.
WOODFIELD, Anthony H., Esq., at Killorglin, co. Kerry, aged 38, on January 29.

ENNISTYMON UNION, Co. CLARE. The Board of Guardians of this Union have increased the salaries of their medical officers, Drs. Shannon, Coleman, and Ryan, from £80 to £100 per annum; and the Poor-Law Commissioners have sanctioned the increase.

MR. FRANK BUCKLAND, F.R.C.S., has been appointed an inspector of salmon fisheries, in the room of Mr. Eden, who has retired from that appointment. Mr. Buckland has well earned such an appointment by his valuable and continued labours.

A MEDAL FIT FOR AN EMPRESS. The Empress of the French received on Sunday the committee of "The National Society for Encouraging Virtue", who came to offer Her Majesty the gold medal of honour accorded for her noble conduct in visiting the cholera patients of Paris and Amiens.

METROPOLITAN POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION. A general meeting of the Association, at the Freemasons' Tavern, is appointed for Wednesday, the 27th, at 3 p.m., and the attendance, and co-operation, of all metropolitan Poor-Law medical officers is invited.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON. The following arrangements have been made for the second half of the Session:—January 17th. Mr. W. Adams, on "The treatment of Hip-joint Disease."—February 7th. Mr. W. F. Teevan, on "New Aids in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Urethral Diseases."—February 21st. Mr. Victor de Méric, on "Some Complications of Gonorrhœa."—March 7th. Dr. Tilbury Fox, on "Parasitic Diseases of the Skin."—March 21st. Mr. I. B. Brown, Jun., on "Anæsthetics in Midwifery."—April 4th. Dr. C. Meredyth, on "Hygiene in Relation to Syphilis."—April 18th. Debate on "The Causes of Excessive Infant Mortality."—May 2nd. H. Power, Esq., M.B., on "Ulcers of the Cornea."—May 16th. Mr. Berkeley Hill.

THE PROPOSED MACCLESFIELD NEW INFIRMARY. The sub-committee appointed to visit various infirmaries, and report to the general committee as to the plan, it might be advisable to adopt for the proposed Macclesfield Infirmary, have visited those of Leeds, Birkenhead, Chorlton, and Ashton, and reported in favour of the pavilion plan of the architect, Mr. Stevens, with minor alterations suggested by medical men. The general committee have approved the plans as presented, and resolved to lay them before a general meeting of the subscribers. The probable cost of the building is estimated at £12,000. It is proposed to lease or purchase additional ground from the Free Grammar School authorities, on whose ground the proposed site stands, or rather from the Charity Commissioners.

ALLEGED DEATH FROM FLOGGING. An inquest was held in the Military Hospital, Limerick, on Monday, to ascertain the cause of death of Private Robert Sim, of the 74th Highlanders, who died in the hospital on the morning of the 9th inst., while under treatment for fever. The deceased had been sentenced to undergo 50 lashes and an imprisonment of 168 days. He was put into prison on the 19th, from which he was removed to the hospital in fever on the morning of the 29th ult. Three military physicians, by whom a *post mortem* examination had been held, were examined, viz., Drs. Touch, White, and Pennington, and their joint testimony was to the effect that the man had died from erysipelas of the brain, which caused the fever, and that his death occurred in the ordinary way as if he had not undergone corporal punishment. The jury, through the foreman, having expressed a wish for the evidence of a civil medical man, Dr. Elmes was summoned by the coroner, and made a *post mortem* examination

of the body of deceased. His evidence was in substance, that the deceased died of irritant fever, super-induced by the corporal punishment he had received. He had no doubt that, had the deceased not suffered the corporal punishment referred to, he would still be alive. The jury found as follows:—"That the deceased, Robert Sim, private 74th Regiment, died in the hospital of the new barracks, on the 9th inst., of congestion of the brain and fever, accelerated by the corporal punishment he received in pursuance of sentence by district court-martial."

ST. PANCRAS WORKHOUSE. At the meeting of the St. Pancras Board of Guardians, startling and unexpected revelations were made respecting the condition and management of the workhouse small-pox wards. Dr. Markham, medical Poor-Law Inspector, said he attended in consequence of a communication made to the Poor-Law Board on the subject. He scarcely ever saw wards in a more unsatisfactory state, or more calculated to spread the disease. He had understood that not less than 16 cases of small-pox had arisen within the House, and probably through contagion from the small-pox wards, since November 9th last, and he found that with regard to clothing not only had no steps been taken for its disinfection, but they were tucked under the beds of the patients, and allowed to remain there till the patient recovered. They were then given them to put on. So that these patients doubtless became a means of spreading the disease abroad. He found that the sheets and blankets were not properly changed, and the nurse had informed him that patients were put under the sheets and blankets that had just been used by other patients, and that she had in vain made application for fresh sheets. The things they had used were used again without being disinfected. With regard to the superintendence of the wards, he had ascertained that there was only one pauper nurse in each ward during the day, and during the night only one old woman, who was 71 years of age. Each pauper nurse had about twenty patients to attend to besides doing all the work of the ward. There was only one night-stool for each ward, and if more than one patient required it at once they had to go across a stoneyard to the privies. He could not help saying that this state of things was most dangerous, and he could not tell to what extent the disease had been propagated by it. That day there were thirty-seven cases in the wards, and there had been upwards of forty last week. He thought it would be better for the Board to take immediate steps to remedy this state of things than to wait for any direct application and investigation by the Poor-Law Board. The chairman, Mr. Watson, and other members of the Board, called Dr. Markham's attention to the fact that by deputation and otherwise they had frequently urged upon the Poor-Law Board the necessity of providing hospital accommodation for small-pox cases. Dr. Markham said he had understood that was the case, and he had no doubt they gave all the accommodation in their power. What he complained of was the system which allowed the wards to run into the condition in which he had found them. Mr. North said if he was ever surprised at anything in his life, it was at the statement with respect to their sheets and blankets, for they were articles of which there was a superabundance at the disposal of each ward. He was equally astonished at the statement that the clothes were allowed to remain under the beds. It was only another instance of the shocking weakness of the present management of their workhouse. Other members of the Board expressed their surprise at the statements that had been made, of which they had

no previous experience. Dr. Markham said if gentlemen doubted his word they could accompany him to the wards, and he would show them that what he had stated was correct. A resolution was then passed to at once appoint more nurses, and refer the whole matter to the House Committee to remedy the evils complained of by Dr. Markham.

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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. A. E. Sansom, "On the Comparative Action of Volatile Narcotics: an Inquiry as to the best agent to employ in practice."

TUESDAY. Pathological Society of London, 8 P.M. Anthropological Society of London, 8 P.M.

THURSDAY. Harvey Society of London, 8 P.M. Mr. Victor de Méric, "On Some Complications of Gonorrhœa"; Mr. Teevan will show cases to Demonstrate the Use of the Urethroscope.

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, Newhall Street, Birmingham.

All Letters and Communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 87, Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

AUTHORS of PAPERS are respectfully requested to make all necessary alterations in their copy before sending it to the JOURNAL. Proofs are furnished to authors, not for further changes, but that the writer may correct the printer when he has misread the manuscript.

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.

ERRATUM.—In Dr. Sieveking's paper in last week's JOURNAL, page 134, column 1, line 27 from bottom, for "Dr. Radcliffe", read "Mr. Radcliffe".

THE MARYLEBONE HOSPITAL.

MR. BENSON BAKER is not the sole officer in charge of the temporary Small-Pox Hospital in Marylebone. The hospital is for the reception of all patients in the district, and therefore each of the district medical officers has charge of those cases sent from his own division of it into the hospital. As the small-pox is most rife in Mr. Benson Baker's district, he has naturally the largest number of cases under his charge; but Messrs. Thomas, Elkins, and Donne, other district medical officers, have also cases in the hospital.

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; Athenaeum, 84,000; Lancet, 81,575; Mining Journal, 76,879; and Homeward Mail, 70,000.

SURGEON R.N.—The egg of the Great Auk is very scarce, fetching at sales by auction thirty guineas and upwards. Specimens may be seen in the Museum of the College of Surgeons.

DR. LOMBE.

SIR.—The reason you do not find Dr. Lombe's name either in Directory or Calendar is, that he has only taken that name within the last five years. You will find the name as T. R. Evans, in practice near Norwich, in which neighbourhood he was a well known practitioner for years.

I am, etc., A PERSONAL FRIEND.

Kew Green, W., February 9th, 1867.

HERNIOTOMIST.—Louisa, Queen of Denmark, daughter of our second George, died at the early age of 26, of an operation for hernia, which lasted an hour. Queen Caroline, mother of the above, also died of it, after an unsuccessful operation by the celebrated Ranby. Caroline of Brunswick, wife of George IV, also fell a victim to strangulated umbilical hernia.

HOUSE OF RELIEF FOR CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC DISEASES OF THE JOINTS.

It is proposed to establish a home for chronic cases of joint-disease in children. It will be conducted by ladies, under the direction of a medical officer. The nature of the proposal will be best explained by the subjoined letter of Mr. Prescott Hewett.

"A Home, such as that proposed by Miss Perceval, will, I think, supply a want long since felt in London. Chronic affections of joints form a very large proportion of the surgical diseases of childhood among the poor, and many such cases are constantly to be found in the wards of all our large hospitals. But unfortunately these cases cannot be kept in our hospitals long enough for the benefit which they have derived to become permanent; and especially is this the case with hip-joint disease. After a few months at the utmost, when all active symptoms have subsided, it becomes absolutely necessary that the little patients should be discharged from the hospital, in order to make room for others. The unfavourable circumstances in which they are placed when they leave the hospital, soon bring about a relapse; they may be re-admitted, and after a while again discharged; then comes another relapse, and so matters go on until a cure becomes an impossibility. To remedy this, what is wanted in London is a 'Home', in which such poor children could be received when they leave the hospital, a home where they would be under the happiest auspices, with good nursing and good surgical guidance. And being kept strictly as a 'Home', an institution of this kind would not clash with the general hospitals, but would help to carry on the good work already begun there. Such a 'Home', Miss Perceval will, I hope, be able to establish."

Dr. S. DREW, Chappeltown, will observe that his letter has been answered in the communication of Dr. Markham to the Times on the subject of Vivisection.

MEMOR.—We shall give full statistical details on the subject in an early number. The work is one of considerable labour, and is not yet complete.

CHLOROFORM IN HYDROPHOBIA.

SIR.—That case of hydrophobia related by Dr. Cossar, of Darlington, is very instructive as to the value of chloroform in such a frightful condition of the nervous system. The chloroform seems to have failed; but I cannot help thinking it was scarcely pushed far enough; in fact, judging by similar cases of tetanus three or four times eleven ounces might be used with chance of success. A case of hydrophobia, obviously cured by chloroform, has been going the rounds of the papers, which happened in Northamptonshire. May we not place one case against the other?

I am, etc., CHARLES KIDD, M.D.

Sackville Street, February 1867.

A FELLOW, Chichester.—Mr. Wormald, who retires by rotation next July, presided last year at the Fellows' dinner. On the next occasion, a provincial surgeon will take the chair. Mr. De la Garde of Exeter is a past chairman.

OWING to pressure on our space, we are compelled to postpone various letters and articles, and numerous answers to correspondents.

Dr. GIBSON's letter arrived too late for insertion this week. It shall appear in the next number of the JOURNAL.

THE AZTECS.

SIR.—Your account of the marriage of the Aztecs on January 8th, reminded me of some old papers in my possession, by which it would appear that they already held a near relationship together, if there be any truth in the following translation of a letter addressed to a friend of mine, a merchant of this city, connected in business with Central America, by a native correspondent, at that time in England. It is dated Manchester, 12th July, 1853, and signed by Pedro E. Rivas, the writer.

"I have read in the *Times* and *Illustrated News* to-day, the history of the Aztec children who have been presented to the Queen, and exhibited to the public in the character of an existing race of Central America. All related therein is a fable invented by their possessors for the purpose of their exhibition. The children in truth came from St. Salvador, of whom I am able to give the following history. The mother is a native of St. Salvador, and lives in a village near the city St. Miguel. When at St. Miguel in 1849, I met a friend of mine, named Raymond Silva, who, having heard of the peculiarity of these children, had conceived the idea of obtaining them for a speculation to exhibit them in the United States and Europe. By the use of some stratagem, possession was obtained of them, although the mother refused her consent. They were embarked at the port of the Union, and carried to Grenada, where they were confided to the care of Dou Trinidad Salazar, who proceeded with them to the United States; and who, the better to carry out the enterprise, engaged as his partner a North American, living at that time at Granada. When they arrived at New York, they met with various disappointments; but in the end arranged for Senr. Salazar to have the possession and profits of the children.

"The next year, Senr. Silva, convinced of the great advantages the possessor of these children might reap, went to New York, and, succeeding in reclaiming them, soon gained money by their exhibition. After a while, he parted with them for a certain sum of money to another person; but whether it was he who had them before or another, I do not know. These are the principal events that occurred at New York that year. I have the strongest reasons for believing that these Aztec children are the same that I saw at St. Miguel, and that they have no pretension whatever to belong to any unknown race; but that their diminutive size is consequent upon a freak of nature, since their parents are of a well known race of native Spaniards, which is spread over the greater part of Central America; and this is confirmed by the personal knowledge I have of their mother. They are of the Roman Catholic religion, which is the only one in my country. I am a native of Central America, and have never heard of any such mysterious city as Ximaya, nor of any such degenerate race as that described. There is such a place as Cupan (called in the *Illustrated News Coban*), and near it there are certainly ruins of most curious ancient monuments, but no mysterious city.

I am, etc.,
A CONSTANT READER.

London, January 1867.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, ETC., have been received from:—
Mr. W. H. Freeman; Mr. G. W. Callender; Professor Maclean, Netley (with enclosure); Dr. Kidd; Mr. T. M. Stoue; Dr. Dyce Duckworth; Mr. J. G. Anderson; Dr. Alexander Fleming, Birmingham (with enclosure); Mr. W. S. Coleman, Milton (with enclosure); Dr. Falconer, Bath; Dr. G. C. P. Murray; Dr. Graily Hewitt (with enclosure); Mr. Charles Wm. Browne; Professor Humphry, Cambridge; Mr. J. H. Bartlett; Mr. Morris (with enclosure); Dr. George Johnson; Mr. Berkeley Hill; Dr. Watson, Burton-on-Trent; Mr. Trotter; Mr. Bremridge; The Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society (with enclosure); Dr. R. P. Cotton; Mr. J. M. Rendall; Mr. Alfred Barton, Hampton Court; Mr. Samuel Woods; Dr. Morell Mackenzie; Mr. Furneaux Jordan, Birmingham (with enclosure); Mr. R. E. Poole; The Honorary Secretary of the Harveian Society; Mr. W. J. Burgess; Mr. R. S. Fowler, Bath; Dr. Charles Harrison, Lincoln; Mr. Holmes; Mr. William Martin; Mr. J. W. Trotter; and Mr. Lambert.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

On Joint-Diseases; their Pathology, Diagnosis, and Treatment. By Holman Coote, F.R.C.S. London: 1867.
Hospital Economics. By R. W. Falconer, M.D. Bath: 1867.
The Baths and Mineral Waters of Bath. By R. W. Falconer, M.D. Fourth edition. London and Bath: 1867.
Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Suffolk Lunatic Asylum, 1867. Lithography and its After-Treatment. By G. H. Porter, M.D. Dublin: 1867.
British Merchant Seamen. By a Commander R.N. London: 1867.
The Seventh Annual Report of the Cranley Village Hospital. Guildford: 1866.
The Fourteenth Report of the United Kingdom Alliance. Manchester and London: 1867.
The Scotsman, February 1st and 5th.
Burton-upon-Trent Times, February 2nd.

Royal Medical Benevolent Col-

lege.—Notice is hereby given, that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Governors of the College will be held at the Office of the College, No. 37, Soho Square, on Thursday, the 25th of February inst., at 3 o'clock p.m. precisely, when the following Resolutions will be proposed by the Council:—

1. That the number of Foundation Scholars be increased from forty to fifty; five additional being elected in 1867, and five in 1868.
2. That the last paragraph of the fourth Bye-law be cancelled, and the following paragraph adopted in its place: "If a Firm, Society, Corporation, or Company, give an adequate donation or subscription, such Firm, Society, Corporation, or Company, shall nominate in writing one of their members to be a Governor; or at their option shall exercise the privileges of a Governor, by such member of their Firm, Society, Corporation, or Company, as they shall from time to time appoint, for twenty years from the period of their donation."
3. That the following paragraph be added to the fifteenth Bye-law: "The Votes of those Governors whose Balloting-papers shall be imperfectly filled up, shall be disposed of in such manner as the Council shall from time to time direct, by directions or regulations printed upon such Balloting-papers."

By order of the Council,

37, Soho Square, London, ROBERT FREEMAN, Secretary.

Feb. 6. 1867.

Classical and Mathematical.—

Dr. STEGGALL prepares Gentlemen for their Examinations in Classics and Mathematics at all the Medical Boards, viz., the Preliminary Examination at Apothecaries' Hall; the Matriculation Examination of the London University; Preliminary and Fellowship Examination at the Royal College of Surgeons, etc.

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According to a recent Parliamentary Return, 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	111,000
Law Times	108,000
Punch	101,500
Athenaeum	84,000
Lancet	81,575
Mining Journal	78,870
Homeward Mail	70,000

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