

Association Intelligence.

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

THE Committee of Council will meet at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on TUESDAY, the 28th day of May, 1867, at 3 o'clock P.M. *precisely*.

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, *General Secretary*.

13, Newhall Street, Birmingham, May 7th, 1867.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT MEDICAL MEETINGS.

THE next meeting of this Branch will be held at the Rose Hotel, Canterbury, on Thursday, May 16th, 1867, at 3 P.M.

R. L. BOWLES, L.R.C.P., *Honorary Secretary*.

Folkestone, May 1st, 1867.

SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT MEETING.

THE next meeting of this Society will be held at the Crystal Palace, on Thursday, May 16th. The chair will be taken at 4 P.M., by Dr. J. M. Bright, of Forest Hill.

Papers, etc., are promised by Mr. Picken, Dr. Braxton Hicks, and Mr. Langton.

Dinner will be provided at 6 P.M.

HENRY T. LANCHESTER, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

Croydon, May 4th, 1867.

NORTHERN BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held in the Library of the Newcastle Infirmary, on Thursday, June 20th, 1867, at 2 P.M. President for 1866-67, Sir John Fife, F.R.C.S.; President-elect for 1867-68, Edward Charlton, M.D.

Gentlemen intending to read papers or cases, or describe pathological specimens, are requested to communicate with the Secretary, without delay.

G. H. PHILIPSON, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, May 7th, 1867.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the session was held at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, on Thursday evening, April 18th; J. S. BARRUM, Esq., F.R.C.S., President. There were also present forty-four members and four visitors.

New Members. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Association and of this Branch: Henry R. Dew, Esq., Pensford (proposed by Dr. E. L. Fox, seconded by Dr. Beddoe); and John Lawrence, Esq., Clifton (proposed by Dr. Brittan, seconded by Mr. Steele).

Papers. 1. A Case of Overgrowth, illustrated by photography. By T. Green, M.D. The subject was a young gentleman who, from a moderate height, very rapidly attained to six feet two inches. When first seen, he was extremely emaciated, feeble, and unable to hold himself erect. After treatment, he was stout, strong, and upright; his *cartes de visite* taken, one before, the other after, his coming under Dr. Green's care, fully corroborated this statement.

The PRESIDENT remarked that this paper opened out a large amount of cases not described in systematic books on medicine; cases which cause very great anxiety, but in which the practitioner, after clearly making out that there is no actual disease, has to persuade the friends of patients, often against their belief, that a restoration to health may be obtained by steady perseverance in treatment, which, from their despondency regarding the case, they would wish to neglect but for the stimulus of the doctor's encouragement.

Dr. DAVEY felt that Dr. Green had opened up important truths; namely, the neglect of purgatives and the abuse of tonics at the present day. In patients suffering from extreme debility, with weak heart, the secretions are frequently depraved; and the ultimate cause is frequently to be found in the *prima via*, and is to be met and moved only by purgatives. Experience proves this fact. Dr. Davey had given infants suffering from apparent debility a course of calomel, a dose twice a day, with proper diet; the result being satisfactory. He considered the principle laid down by Dr. Green to be right. A young lady, a relation of his, got into a low state of health while on the continent; was supposed to have diseased heart; went to London; there took tonics; came home. Dr. Davey found a depraved state of *prima via*; he stopped the tonics, and purged the patient well. The proper action of the heart returned; a course of tonic, alterative, and aperient medicine, was then taken; and the young lady's health was re-established.

Mr. W. M. CLARKE asked if, in the case of pyæmia with suppuration in the knee-joint which Dr. Green had mentioned, the knee-joint was laid open?

Dr. GREEN answered that the joint was not opened. Iodine was applied, and the pus was absorbed; but pain and suppuration settled in the left lumbar region. An incision was made there, the pus liberated, and the patient did well.

2. Acute Tubercle. By Dr. E. Long Fox. Dr. HERAPATH made inquiries respecting some of the cases mentioned in the paper.

3. Hospital Ambulances, with a description of one designed for County and Village Hospitals. By Horace Swete, Esq. The ambulance was on view in the hall, and had attracted much attention as gentlemen entered the rooms.

Mr. SWETE shewed two photographs of the ambulance in use. When he first designed one, he applied to different coach-builders for an estimate of its price, and obtained none under £50. He felt that one could not obtain much use which cost more than £20, and the village carpenter at Wrington was able to make this one for that sum. The plan had been taken from observing how easily coffins are lifted in and out of hearses by means of rollers near the door. The ambulance was light and small; able to be taken up lanes and paths; might be drawn by a pony, donkey, or a man in front, with another pressing the side-rail. A person walking by the side could also attend to the wants of the patient, watch a tourniquet, etc.; the tray could be taken out and carried anywhere to the sufferer; an injured limb could be attended to by drawing the tray partially out; the windows at the sides were made to slide; the weight was only about three hundredweight and a half. Mr. Swete proposed to send the photographs to the *Illustrated London News*.

Mr. DAVIES congratulated Wrington on having a public ambulance, which Bristol had not as yet, but ought to have, as he considered that at present every cab was infected with some disease. He thought that Mr. Swete's design was excellent.

The PRESIDENT considered that the people of

Wrighton should be congratulated on having so energetic a medical man.

Mr. BOARD said that a gentleman had proposed that the Infirmary should be possessed of an ambulance; but he considered that it would be of little use, as patients are taken direct to hospitals without sending previously to such institutions.

Dr. BRITTAN had urged on the Clifton Board of Guardians the necessity of ambulances. One was accordingly ordered, made by Messrs. Perry of Bristol, exactly like a Coburg, thereby avoiding attracting attention while passing through the streets or when stopping at a house. The whole back formed one door, though appearing to divide in the middle; the tray, covered with canvas, was elastic and waterproof. The whole could be washed inside. To avoid being too long, a part of the driver's foot well was boarded up, and made to receive the end of the tray. The tray occupied only about half the width of the carriage, leaving room for two attendants to sit inside. The interior was shut out from the driver. Ventilating windows were placed in the sides and back. The cost was £25.

Mr. STONE thought the feeling in the public mind with regard to contagion would wear off as people became accustomed to seeing ambulances in use.

Dr. GREEN congratulated Wrighton on having Mr. Swete, so able in mechanics. He (Dr. Green) had applied to Mr. Swete on two occasions, when he wanted special applications for patients. But Bristol does not lack the same skill. Mr. Davies had done all he could to promote the welfare of Bristol; and, if not able to do all he wished, it was owing to the tardiness of corporate bodies. Twelve years ago, he (Dr. Green) had actually been told that he was insane for urging on the Town Council the appointment of a medical officer of health.

Mr. MITCHELL CLARKE asked whether this Branch could not urge on the Boards of Guardians in the neighbourhood the necessity of having ambulances placed in available situations? Cases of fractured spine are sometimes brought into hospitals from the country on carts, that would have been much better kept at home. He thought Mr. Swete's contrivance as unlike a hearse as possible; and it would be a great boon if villages could be possessed of one. The great point was to get the thing established. He, therefore, proposed that a subcommittee be appointed to impress on boards of guardians in the neighbourhood the necessity of having ambulances in available situations.

Mr. COLLINS corroborated the statement of Messrs. Perry, that much jolting is avoided by having two wheels instead of four. He felt that suggestions for improvement might be brought to bear on the management of funerals; for he shuddered whenever a cloak was placed on his shoulders, having observed that, directly the ceremony is over, all the cloaks, etc., are thrown into the hearse, without any regard to what disease the body it had just before carried had died of.

Mr. WOOLMER said the Clifton ambulance was still in use; had been of much service; and that patients liked it. He thanked Dr. Brittan for it.

Mr. SWETE urged strongly that the guardians should be memorialised, as Mr. Clarke had suggested.

Mr. DAVIES said that what Bristol wanted was a public ambulance.

The PRESIDENT requested Mr. Clarke and Mr. Swete to draw up a memorial, and lay it before the next meeting of the Branch for signature.

Mr. JENNINGS read a paper on the Operation for Hernia without the administration of chloroform.

The several papers are expected for publication.

Reports of Societies.

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

MONDAY, APRIL 16TH, 1867.

JOHN SIMON, Esq., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT introduced to the meeting the rules framed by the Council for the proposed Committee on Morbid Growths, to which we have already referred. The following is a copy.

I. The name of the Committee to be "Committee on Morbid Growths and Deposits."

II. The object of the Committee is particularly to ascertain if any and what relation exists between anatomical structure and those clinical characters ordinarily regarded as "malignant."

III. The specimens to be submitted to this Committee are to be such as the President may deem proper. With regard to specimens so referred, the following regulations must be complied with.

1. The specimen must be either fresh, or in a jar or bottle with some preservative fluid.

2. The specimen must be accompanied by a written description and clinical history.

3. The specimen must be placed at the disposal of the Committee at the close of the meeting, for examination.

IV. Where the above regulations have not been complied with, the specimens will not be reported upon by the Committee; nor will the case be published in the *Transactions*, without the express sanction of the Council.

V. In the case of specimens taken from persons still living, it will be understood that the exhibitor undertakes, as far as possible, to inform the Society of the progress of the case, for publication in the *Transactions*.

VI. The notes and descriptions of the specimens referred to the Committee, with the Committee's description of early specimens, will form "the Annual Report of the Committee on Morbid Growths and Deposits," which will constitute a section in each volume of the Society's *Transactions*.

VII. It will be desirable that the Committee shall have in view the object of ultimately preparing a general report on the matters of their investigation.

VIII. The composition of the Committee shall be determined from time to time by the Council, and shall be reconsidered at the commencement of each session.

Dr. SIMON moved the adoption of the Report of the Council.

Dr. QUAIN seconded the proposal, and he suggested the printing of the rules.

The proposal was adopted by the Society.

Dr. SCHULHOF suggested that the Committee should prescribe some fluids proper for the preservation of specimens. This was assented to by the President.

Dr. PLAYFAIR presented a specimen of Thrombosis of the Pulmonary Artery. The patient, a young girl, a nurse in King's College Hospital, had suffered from rheumatism in the knee, and died suddenly. No cause of death could be found beyond a decolorised clot in the right auricle and pulmonary artery.

Dr. BRISTOWE doubted whether the clot in Dr. Playfair's case was sufficient to account for death.

Mr. PICK and Dr. PLAYFAIR pointed out the decolorisation of the clot and its adherence to the co-

report he (Lord Naas) ordered an inquiry to be made, and the next day directions were given for a material relaxation of the rules under which they had hitherto been confined. During the recess he had ordered a report to be made as to the effect of the relaxations which had been permitted, and on the 26th of April Dr. McDonnell reported that there were no serious cases of illness amongst the Fenian prisoners. They were permitted to obtain their food from outside the prison, and if they were unable to do this the prison dietary was rendered more liberal on their behalf. Other relaxations had been allowed them, and the object of the Government was to do nothing harsh, but only adopt those measures that were absolutely necessary.

Monday, May 6th.

THE CATTLE-PLAGUE.

Lord GALWAY asked the Vice-President of the Council whether there was any truth in the report that there had been an outbreak of cattle-plague in London.

Lord R. MONTAGU: Yes, sir, I am sorry to say that there is truth in the report to which the hon. member has alluded. Our attention was first called to the matter by hearing that a number of cows were being quietly removed in Limehouse. We took measures to discover whether there was cattle-plague, which is always very difficult, as the utmost secrecy is maintained. At last, the inspector discovered a dairy in which the cows were dying of cattle-plague, and thirty-nine were, I believe, killed. It has also broken out in New North Road, Islington; also in Shepperton Street, which is in the same vicinity. I may also mention that a heifer died of cattle-plague last night, and another this morning, at Ashby Parva, in Leicestershire.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

The following is a notice of motion for Tuesday, May 21st:

Mr. SYNAN: Naval Medical Officers—To call the attention of the House to the report of the 10th of August, 1866, of the Committee appointed to inquire into the rank, pay, and position of the medical officers of the army; and to move—That, in the opinion of this House, the alteration made in the Royal Warrant of the 1st day of October, 1858, has not only operated prejudicially to the interests of the medical profession, but produced an injurious effect upon the military service of the country; and that it would tend to procure a better qualified class of medical officers, and thereby promote the greater efficiency of the military service generally if the recommendations of the said Committee were carried out in their integrity.

The following are notices of motions for which no days have been fixed:

On going into Committee of Supply, Mr. O'BEIRNE: To move—That the Merchant Shipping Act of 1854, and all subsequent Acts upon the same subject, be referred to a Select Committee to inquire and report to the House such amendments in the law, if any, as they shall consider to be necessary for the better protection of the public and the mercantile marine of this country.

Sir HERVEY BRUCE: Naval Squadron (West Coast of Africa)—To call attention to the mortality and sickness among the officers and men of the naval squadron on the West Coast of Africa; and to move—That the maintenance of that squadron, as it has been hitherto placed, is no longer expedient.

Colonel NORTH: On Army Estimates, Vote 7, to move—That the hospital stoppages be reduced from tenpence to sevenpence a day, in compliance with the

recommendation of the Committee which reported upon the system of ration stoppages on the 2nd day of March, 1866.

Lord ROBERT MONTAGU gave notice of motion for Thursday, May 9th, in respect of Brown's Charity, for permission to bring in a Bill for confirming a scheme of the Charity Commissioners for "The Charity founded by Thomas Brown, Esq., for promoting the Study and Cure of the Maladies, Distempers, and Injuries of Quadrupeds or Birds useful to Man." Also, in respect of Tancred's Charities, for permission to bring in a Bill for confirming a scheme of the Charity Commissioners for "The several Charities founded by the Settlement and Will of Christopher Tancred, of Whitley, in the county of York, Esquire, deceased."

The following is a notice of motion for May 13th:

Mr. BAZLEY: To ask the Secretary of State for India, what compensation the Government intend offering to the Indian Medical Retiring Funds for the losses now incurred by those institutions through the non-accession of fresh subscribers, resulting from orders passed by the Home Government in 1858. And, to inquire what compensation is to be offered to the medical officers of the late Honourable East India Company's Service for the loss of the several valuable administrative medical appointments which have been recently transferred to medical officers of Her Majesty's British Army serving in India, as all the rights and privileges of the medical officers of the Indian Army were secured to them by a parliamentary guarantee when their services were transferred to the Crown.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND. The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on May 7th.

Bayley, Reginald, Nailsea, Bristol
Blackley, John Gulley, Manchester
Cartwright, Samuel Hamilton, Old Burlington Street
Chapman, Charles William, Dalston
Chinery, Edward Fluder, Lymington, Hants
Evans, Ernest Thomson Raimbach, Jersey
Franklin, Benjamin, Liverpool
Gabe, Joseph, Merthyr Tydfil
Gostling, Henry Walter, Oakley, near Bedford
Haynes, James Robert, Clipstone Street
Hopgood, Thomas Frederick, L.S.A., Chipping Norton
Juler, Henry Edward, Shepherd's Bush
Maine, Walter, Barnstaple, Devon
Newstead, Charles Henry, Royal General Dispensary
O'Grady, James Cornelius, Bombay
Pierce, Frederick Morrish, Higher Broughton
Pinder, Thomas Henry, Whitley
Sheffield, Robert Longuet, L.S.A., Mile End Road
Smith, Frederic Walter, Branchley, Kent
Walker, James, Leeds
Willan, George Thomas, Bourne, Lincolnshire

Admitted on May 8th—

Brown, James, Dudley Port
Carré, Louis Charles Achille, Bath
Case, Henry, Box Moor
Cheesman, Henry, Lewes, Sussex
Coleman, Matthew Owen, Surbiton
Fiddian, Alexander Paull, Bridgend, Glamorganshire
Fountaine, David Owen, Stoke Hammond, Bucks
Grindrod, Charles, Liverpool
Loy, Thomas Richardson, L.S.A., Stokesley, Yorkshire
Maunsell, Henry Widdinham, Dublin
Solly, Samuel Edwin, Savile Row
Steward, Alfred, Wolverhampton
Stokell, George, L.R.C.P. Lond. & Edin., L.S.A., Hobart Town
Swindell, John James, Finchley
Wharton, Joseph, Oldham
Wiseman, John Greaves, Ossett, Yorkshire
Woodward, Edwin, Birmingham

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On April 25th, 1867, the following Licentiate were admitted:—

Dyer, Edward, Clerkenwell
Holmes, William Hubert, Cork
Hopgood, Thomas Frederick, Chipping Norton
Jewell, Ernest George Thomas, Wetheridge
Lay, Thomas Richardson, Stokesby, Yorkshire
Pavey, George, Edmonton
Richardson, William Edmund, Rockdale

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

Allbutt, Henry Arthur

APPOINTMENT.

MORGAN, John Edward, M.D., M.A. (Oxon.), M.R.C.P. (London), has been elected Physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, *vice* Dr. Renaud, resigned.

MARRIAGE.

CHESTERMAN—CROOME. On May 1st, at St. Mary's Church, Little Brickhill, Bucks, by the Rev. Thomas Pym-Williamson, vicar, Shearman Chesterman, Esq., the Green, Banbury, to Susan, widow of W. F. Croome, Esq., and only surviving daughter of the late John Golby Milward, Esq., the Lawn, Banbury.

DEATH.

BLACK, James, M.D., F.R.C.P., at 2, George Square, Edinburgh, aged 79, on April 30.

NEWCASTLE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE. The following is a list of the successful candidates, to whom prizes have been awarded for the classes of the winter session 1866-7. *Anatomy:* Medal and First Certificate of Honour, George Rowell; Second Certificate, Thomas Benson; Third Certificate, John Dixon. *Physiology:* Medal and First Certificate, Thomas Benson; Second Certificate, John Dixon; Third Certificate, Thomas Taylor. *Chemistry:* Medal and First Certificate, L. S. Halket. *Surgery:* Medal and First Certificate, F. W. Newcombe; Second Certificate, R. C. Newton; Third Certificate, J. E. Brogden. *Medicine:* Medal and First Certificate, R. C. Newton.

SUICIDE OF A MEDICAL GENTLEMAN. On Saturday last an inquest was held in High Street, Poplar, on the body of Mr. Messeena, aged 75 years. Deceased was last seen alive on Monday night, by his brother, and he was then in a very distressed state of mind, consequent on a supposed disadvantageous disposal of his practice. His mind was affected by softening of the brain, and his family had been advised to keep razors, etc., out of his way. On Tuesday he was found lying on the floor, and a razor lying near him. His throat was cut from left to right, and he was quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide while in a state of Temporary Insanity."

STRANGE ABORTIVE. A *religieuse* of 23 years of age presented herself, says *Il Morgagni*, at the Hospital of the Incurables at Naples for relief from acute pains of the breast, for which she could assign no cause. After the account of her sufferings, the physicians, suspecting something unusual, submitted her to examination, much against her will. In place of signs of disease, he found the ordinary signs of pregnancy. Foreign bodies, sharply pointed, were felt beneath the skin on pressure, which caused sharp pain. Their presence was denied strenuously by the patient until the point of a needle was made to project through the skin. She feigned astonishment at the singular fact, insinuating that it had found its way there accidentally during sleep; and it was only after thirty-two had been withdrawn that she acknowledged herself to be six months advanced in pregnancy, and that her confessor had advised this means of expiating her sins, and had himself introduced the needles.

DEATH OF THE MIKADO. According to the *Japan Herald*, from which we copy the subjoined paragraphs, the Mikado, or Spiritual Emperor of Japan, has died of small-pox. The statement is discredited by the *Japan Times*, but the *Herald* being the consular organ, we are inclined to place faith in its intelligence. It says:—The death which we announce would in any case deeply affect the nation; but in this instance we hear that the death of the late Mikado is held to be peculiarly deplorable and unfortunate, inasmuch as he died of small-pox—a disease, which although quite common to the country, since the time of the first Mikado, Jingmoo Ten-o, who reigned 2,563 years ago, has never been known to attack the sacred person of a Mikado until now.

MOVEMENT OF THE POPULATION IN FRANCE. The *Moniteur* has just published a statistical report of births, marriages, and deaths in France during the year 1864, from which it appears that the population of France has increased from 37 millions in 1861 to 38 millions in 1864. During that year the births exceeded the deaths by 145,550, an increase, consequently, of 0.38 per cent. The average term of life in this country is estimated at about 37½ years. Longevity among females is greater than among males, and also greater in country districts than in towns. In the marriage list there is a marked decrease. In 1864 the number of marriages contracted amounted to 299,579, a considerable falling off from preceding years, notwithstanding the increase of population. The average age of woman at the time of marriage is below that of man. The difference is more striking in Paris and country towns than in villages. With regard to mortality in France it appears that rather more than a fifth of the male children born die within the first year of their birth, and another fifth before their twentieth year. About a half reach 30 years, a fourth 65 years, a fifth from 65 to 70 years. Among female children the proportions are different, about one-sixth dying within the first twelve months, and so on in proportion.

ROYAL JENNERIAN AND LONDON VACCINE INSTITUTION. The annual meeting of this institution was held on Friday, at its premises, 18, Providence Row, Finsbury Square; Mr. Templeton in the chair. The report, which was adopted and ordered to be printed, said that the number vaccinated at the institution had increased to 1,295; and the demand for vaccine virus had also increased. The year had presented great activity, with reference to vaccination, in the urgent endeavours to enforce compulsory vaccination by parties who seemed to glory in forcing their convictions upon others, forgetting that the only way in which a truth could be spread was by establishing a conviction in the public mind. The document then referred in congratulatory terms to the failure of the Vaccination Bill of last year, and to the deputation (of which the medical director of the institution was a member) that waited upon the Duke of Buckingham this year to protest against compulsory vaccination, which resulted in an intimation on the part of his grace that he saw no reason for refusing the public inquiry which was demanded by the deputation. The balance-sheet showed with how small a cost the institution effected its benefits. It now needed help, and it was hoped that help would be readily granted. The total receipts for the year, including £55:18:6 brought forward, were £133:13:10, and the payments £131:13:5, leaving a balance of £2:0:5, against which there were debts to the amount of £348:5. The retiring members of the Board of Management were re-elected; and thanks were voted to the Board, to Dr. Epps, the medical director, and to the chairman.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Metropolitan Free, 9 P.M.—St. Mark's, 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, 2 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.

TUESDAY. Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M.
 Anthropological Society of London, 8 P.M.
 THURSDAY. Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. Mr. Berkeley Hill, "Historical Sketch of the Treatment of Syphilis without Mercury."

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; or to the Secretaries of their respective Branches.

All Letters and Communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the Editor, 37, 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.

DR. HARLING.—There are appropriate punishments for "an unruly member."

THE PROGRESS OF THE JOURNAL.

DR. CARR (Greenwich); Mr. J. V. SOLOMON (Birmingham).—We are obliged for the complimentary communications. If our information on all professional topics connected with official changes and transactions, and metropolitan and general professional matters, has been of the earliest and most authentic, we owe it very much to the confidence and support of the heads of the profession in London, for which we have much reason to feel indebted. If members of the Association scattered throughout the country would show an equal interest in forwarding the items of local professional news likely to be interesting to the profession at large, the supremacy of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL would be still more rapidly and firmly established.

SCANDAL ABOUT QUEEN ANNE.

A NAVAL OFFICER (Greenwich) will excuse us if we decline to follow him through the mazes of personality. Whether it be the officers of Greenwich who are unwilling to quit comfortable quarters, or the medical officers of the Dreadnought who desire to obtain them, are matters which do not concern the profession, and of which the consideration is more likely to complicate than to facilitate the question. We doubt the accuracy of the assertion. The matter at issue is one of fact. The objection to the partitioned chambers, as such, is clearly well founded; and we are glad to believe that, whether Queen Anne's quarters or Queen Mary's are assigned to the patients, the ventilation of the subject by the press is likely to lead to a more thorough ventilation of the wards by the Admiralty.

PRESCRIBERS AND CHEMISTS.

SIR.—In the JOURNAL of April 20th, is a short letter from "A Physician", on the concentration and dilution of medicines by prescribers; in which he is severe on dispensing druggists on account of their charges. His observations, of course, bear at least equally—I may say more—on general practitioners who dispense and charge for their medicines. Now, I consider it no disgrace to belong to the latter class, and have to work hard, both mentally and physically; and I beg leave to ask your prescribing correspondent how we, general practitioners, are to live by supplying our patients with medicine for days together in an ounce-bottle at a shilling? If it should be said, in answer, that your correspondent was not alluding to us, but to druggists, I reply: that if they—the druggists—were to dispense prescribed medicines in such a concentrated form, it would, I apprehend, seriously prejudice the minds of our patients against our "tariff", as he is pleased to denominate it; to say nothing of the injury it would do to the druggist himself—both which, I fear, some physicians are too much disposed to do.

Would any of these gentlemen like to reduce his fee for a visit, and writing half a sheet to a shilling or even half a crown? If our remuneration could be secured otherwise than by charging for journeys and medicines, it would be more agreeable to the dignity and scientific genius of our profession; but until we can see that accomplished, and while we have to pay house rent, table expenses, etc., and to maintain our families in respectability, I am convinced we must be allowed to make our usual charges, by sending out our medicine, if not in separate draughts, yet in six-ounce and eight-ounce mixtures, etc. And we shall be content to bear the *onus*, if we can have the *honos* of being virtually, though not titularly *medici*. I am, etc.,

A GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

Wellington, Shropshire, April 26th, 1867.

PHYSICIANS AND DISPENSERS.

SIR.—"A Physician" complains of the high charges made by chemists. May this not be traced to the fact of medical men making up their own medicines, and thus depriving the dispenser of medicines of his legitimate employment and remuneration, obliging him to make an unfair profit out of the few prescriptions that come into his hand?

We must hope that the day is not far distant when a revised "Medical Bill" will so far protect the profession as to make it illegal for any one to practise, unless enrolled on the Register; and then the profession should respond to it by at once putting all their dispensing into the chemists' hands, instead of their being, as at present, rival practitioners, in which the medical element often plays but second fiddle. I am, etc., M.D.

DR. SOUTHER'S Lecture on Tubercle will be published next week.

COLLOID STYPTIC.

SIR.—Will you give the following a place in your JOURNAL, having had another opportunity of trying the "Colloid Styptic" in a case of Epistaxis. I found it to succeed, when all other means had failed. I applied it on a piece of sponge, which was confined in the nostril by a bandage tied over the head. The bleeding was active, and the gentleman had lost over three pints. He has had no return of the bleeding. I am using the styptic to some cases of small-pox, with a view of preventing the face being pitted; it seems very comfortable to the patients, and they are doing well. I have no doubt the result will be satisfactory. I will state particulars when they are well. I am, etc.,

May 6th, 1867.

W. J. TUBBS, Surgeon.

ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE AND DISEASE.

SIR.—Your reviewer, in giving an impartial sketch of my book in the JOURNAL of April 20th, has accidentally omitted to notice the important point which is the *keystone* of my whole work. I do not lay claim to any originality in the application of any hitherto unknown medicinal agent, or the use of any hitherto unapplied hygienic measure in the treatment of consumption and chronic disease; but I may be allowed priority of recommendation as to *atmospheric pressure*, as an auxiliary in modifying diseased action; to this matter, I wish to draw the attention of my professional brethren.

I have within the last fortnight had facts communicated to me by two gentlemen—one, a six years' resident in Chili; the other, four years in the South of Africa; which confirm all which I had before felt to be true. These gentlemen were both suffering from consumption; and both found that when they tried the higher localities to which they had access, they experienced an aggravation of their symptoms; while in the warm plains, all their distress was mitigated.

I am willing to leave the further elucidation of the subject to the "stern logic of facts", and thus bear out my maxim: The greatest friend of truth is time—her greatest enemy is prejudice.

I am, etc., J. C. ATKINSON, M.D.

Beasborough Gardens, S.W., April 1867.

* * We do not take the same view of the question of originality. The recommendation of an atmosphere, loaded with carbonic acid gas, as a remedy for consumption, seems to us tolerably original. The influence of compressed air has been studied before Dr. Atkinson, and more thoroughly by others. Dr. Ullersperger's book, reviewed in the same article, contains nearly half a page of reference. Dr. Jourdanet's works are particularly careful and minute on this subject.

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.

R. H. Fox (Devonport).—We know of no such institution, and conclude that the advertisement is a hoax. No respectable medical men advertise at all.

VIVISECTION.

Dr. CHARLES TAYLOR, Nottingham, commenting on the remarks of Dr. E. Brown-Séquard, says:—

"The horrible cruelties necessary in this method of interrogating nature, can only be justified by adequate results; and the difficulties attendant upon the subject, the fertile sources of error, and the number of experiments required to arrive at conclusions which after all are scarcely ever trustworthy, render it extremely doubtful whether such uncertain scraps of knowledge are worth purchasing at such a price, or whether the practice can be fairly recommended even to men of science.

"Be this as it may, it is certainly no fit exercise for gentlemen just commencing their studies, who are but too often misled into stifling the better feelings of their nature in the vain hope that they have found a royal road to eminence and lucrative practice. An eminent physiologist has well observed, that 'it is not ordained that we should obtain knowledge by cruelty.' Vivisection can only be justifiable in certain cases; and before an inquirer commences an experiment of torture, he ought to be convinced of its absolute necessity, that the investigation is important and the means indispensable, and also that he is master of the existing knowledge of the subject, qualified to operate and philosophise on the results."

Dr. Taylor quotes the dictum of Dr. Johnson, the lexicographer, reproaching vivisection, and refers to the barbarities at Alford, etc. He adds:—

"The above are fair samples of the cruel excesses to which the habitual practice of vivisection will lead even men of science, and I contend that to recommend its adoption by the young and thoughtless is unjust to the students themselves, who are too apt to rely upon the *ipsa dicta* of their teachers, and productive of infinite pain and misery to our dumb fellow-creatures without a chance of any beneficial result. Dr. George Wilson (thus quoted by Mr. Hemling), than whom no man ever had a greater love for science, or a more earnest desire to advance it by every worthy means, makes the following apposite remarks on this point:—'It could be wished also, that the invitations to all and sundry among the students of a college or university to imbrue their hands in innocent blood, were more guarded than they at present are. A premium has thus been put upon animal torture and animal murder at the hands of the most inexperienced and most unskilful members of the profession which has been productive of most serious evils.

"Our central regulating and examining medical bodies have much in their power in reference to this, and owe it to the character of the profession for humanity not to tempt young men to let desire for distinction induce them to be thoughtlessly, much less deliberately, cruel.' The little to be gained from vivisection, compared to the amount of cruelty, time, and labour wasted upon it, may be judged of by the fact that vivisectioners differ so much among themselves that it is often impossible to draw any conclusions from their labours; and, we find almost invariably, that as age matures the reflective powers, and the operators themselves realise more fully the truth of the axiom, that life is short and art is long—that they abandon their former practices and look back upon their past lives with regret and sorrow at the many useless cruelties they have perpetrated. Thus we find Sir Astley Cooper stopped short in one of his most interesting researches entirely to avoid a number of cruel experiments upon animals. Magendie, on his death-bed, imploring his friends to avoid vivisectioners, and assuring them that any surgeon or physician who obtained his knowledge from such an uncertain source would be sure to be misled, and was unworthy of confidence. Dr. John Reid, exclaiming in agony, this is a judgment upon me for the sufferings I have inflicted upon animals; the Director of the Imperial School at Alford, observing, 'Is there one of the experiments I have described which has produced for humanity any advantage that can compensate for the sufferings they have occasioned? I have no hesitation in replying in the negative.' And Sir C. Bell, recording the following, 'Experiments have never been the means of discovery, and the survey of what has been attempted of late years will prove that the opening of living animals has done more to perpetuate error than to enforce the just views taken from anatomy and the rational sciences.'

"Such instances might be multiplied *ad infinitum*; but I think I have advanced enough to show that vivisection ought not to be lightly recommended as a means of study to unqualified men, and that even when undertaken by men of science, it should be with the utmost care, caution, and repugnance."

F. A.—The new volume of the Pharmacopœia may be had of any bookseller.

Mr. RUMSEY's request shall be duly attended to.

"VERBUM SAT SAPIENTI."

SIR,—Permit me to supplement Dr. Lyle's remarks, headed "The Double Qualification", which appeared in the *JOURNAL* of the 4th instant, by suggesting the propriety (not to say the equity) of our examination in midwifery being waived in the case of candidates for the license of the Royal College of Physicians, who already possess the midwifery diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons, as does,
Your humble servant,
May 1867.
E. J. (L.M., 1856.)

A POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICER.—We shall go fully into the subject in an early number. Next week, if possible.

THE PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC EXAMINATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

SIR,—If I rightly understand the matter, the main objection to this examination is not so much its difficulty, as the fact that it constitutes an additional barrier to be overcome before a degree can be obtained. Graduates in Medicine are unfairly weighted. Four examinations must be passed before a man is a graduate at all; and there is no University in the world where, in order to become a Doctor of Medicine, five such stringent ordeals must be gone through.

Now, Bachelors of Science and of Arts have to pass only three examinations; and all the subjects of those examinations are strictly pertinent to their respective degrees. On the other hand, the collateral sciences assume a disproportionate importance in the examinations for the Degree in Medicine. The stress laid upon chemistry is literally overwhelming; it begins at matriculation, and even at the Second M.B. Examination it crops up in a subtle way in the shape of toxicology. Fortunately, I passed in the good old days, when the Preliminary Scientific was not thought of; in the good old days, when Professors Sharpey and Kiernan were examiners, whose anatomy papers could be answered from honest persevering dissection, and did not require the dodges of the grinder's room.

I agree with your editorial remarks, that some moderate change is needed, or the University of London examinations will soon be a discouragement and despair.

Another subject admits of remark. The Charter of the University expressly provides that no examiner shall be eligible more than four consecutive years. But at the election of Examiners for the Faculty of Medicine last Wednesday, two or three of the Examiners who had served the full period were chosen for the fifth time, in apparent violation of the Thirty-third Clause of the Charter, dated January 6th, 1863.

I am, etc.,
Bath, Easter 1867.

ANOTHER GRADUATE.

A CARD.

SIR,—The enclosed slip is from the *Birmingham Gazette*; in which paper the advertisement has been for some time inserted. Is it not high time that our expensive Medical Council should turn their attention in that direction? I am, etc.,
W. D.

"A Card." Mr. Moore, member of the Royal College of Surgeons, etc. (registered), may be consulted daily, from Ten till Two (or by letter), on all diseases of a peculiar character affecting either sex. Address, 5, Langham Street, Portland Street, London, W."

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:—Dr. Eastlake; Dr. Seaton; Dr. Thudichum; The Hon. Secretary of the Harveian Society; Dr. Markham; Dr. Edward Hughes, Mold; Mr. H. Terry, jun., Northampton; Dr. Macintyre, Odiham, Hants; Dr. R. Payne Cotton; Dr. Abbotts Smith; Dr. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; The Registrar-General of England; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; Mr. Black; Dr. Samelson, Manchester (with enclosure); Dr. W. F. Wade, Birmingham (with enclosure); Dr. Althaus (with enclosure); Mr. T. Holmes (with enclosure); Mr. T. M. Stone; Mr. W. H. Rumsey, Cheltenham (with enclosure); Dr. Southey (with enclosure); Mr. T. Watkin Williams, Birmingham; Mr. Chesterman, Banbury; Mr. Charles Hawkins; Dr. Redwood; Dr. J. E. Morgan, Manchester; A Member of the Association; The Honorary Secretary of the Epidemiological Society; Mr. Henry Lee; Dr. Meadows; Mr. J. W. Fryer, Kent; Dr. F. Symes Thompson; Mr. Curguenven; Mr. J. Vose Solomon, Birmingham; The Registrar-General of Ireland; The Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society; Dr. H. T. Lancaster, Croydon; Mr. Luther Holden; Mr. J. N. Radcliffe; Mr. Calkin; Mr. Elkington; Mr. Campion; Mr. Stewart; Dr. Holman; and Mr. Bremridge.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

Surgical Reports. By George H. Porter, M.D. Dublin: 1867.
On the Principles of Aesthetic Medicine, etc. By J. P. Cawlow M.R.C.S. London and Birmingham: 1867.

The Liverpool Mercury, May 2nd.
The Chronicle, May 4th.
The Sunday Gazette, May 5th.