

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.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE next meeting of the above Branch will be held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday, May 23rd, at 7.15 P.M.; J. S. Bartrum, Esq., President.

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.

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Northampton Infirmary, on Thursday, June 27th, at 2 P.M.; R. W. Watkins, Esq., President, in the Chair.

Gentlemen intending to read papers or cases, are requested to communicate with Dr. Bryan, of Northampton, one of the Honorary Secretaries, without delay.

J. M. BRYAN, M.D. } *Hon.*
G. P. GOLDSMITH, Esq. } *Secs.*

Reports of Societies.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON.

MARCH 21ST, 1867.

J. E. POLLOCK, M.D., President, in the Chair.

Anæsthetics in Midwifery. By ISAAC BROWN, Esq. He commenced by paying a tribute of praise to Sir James Simpson and all those who had succeeded in bringing the induction of anæsthesia to perfection. Mr. BROWN reviewed the principal objections, scriptural and professional, which had been raised against administering anæsthetics in midwifery, and showed how completely they had been answered by Sir James Simpson and also Dr. Protheroe Smith. There were some who objected to chloroform or any other anæsthetic in midwifery, on the ground that by such means the strength of the uterine contraction is impaired, and that there is not sufficient risk to life arising from the pains of labour to justify us in administering an agent itself capable of risking life. The first objection he hoped to prove untenable by relating cases which would show labour to be rather hastened than impeded by anæsthetics; and to the second he would give the best answer by bringing under notice an anæsthetic agent which is, under ordinary circumstances, incapable of producing total unconsciousness, and so reducing the risk of loss of life

from its influence to almost *nil*. Mr. Brown considered ether entirely unsuited for midwifery purposes, from the large quantity required, and also on account of its disagreeable odour.

Chloroform, *pur et simple*, he also objected to, as liable to be given to the induction of full narcosis; although he admitted, with Dr. Righy, that in *almost* all private patients the line could be drawn between loss of pain and loss of consciousness.

Mr. Brown objected to the mixtures recommended by the Chloroform Committee of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, on the ground of the ether that they contained; and quoted largely from Dr. Sansom (without doubt, next to Dr. Snow, the English physician to whom we owe most for really valuable investigations on this subject) to show that in alcohol alone we have an agent on which we can fully rely as a diluent of chloroform; and he also used the same gentleman's arguments, and repeated the objections which he had himself made, in answer to Mr. Ellis's ingenious but complicated method of inducing anæsthesia by mixed vapours.

With reference to Dr. Townley's "anodyne mixture", Mr. Brown had been compelled, as had friends of his, to abandon it, as he did not find it, when made up by other than Dr. Townley's own chemist, so efficacious as from his book one was led to hope. Moreover, the "aromatic mixture" added by Dr. Townley had, as it evaporated, a most disagreeable and drug-like smell.

Mr. Brown, in March 1865, had made some experiments with dilutions of chloroform with alcohol, and had found that the most convenient for use in midwifery was two parts of chloroform with one of alcohol. In the latter were distilled the essential oils used in the preparation of eau de Cologne. The mixture was clear, and, as it evaporated, very elegant and agreeable to the patient. If properly prepared, it should have a specific gravity of 1.152. It must not be confounded with a mixture of chloroform and eau de Cologne, in which, there being water, the chloroform was at once precipitated. Mr. Brown did not consider there was any particular merit in the eau de Cologne, beyond its agreeable odour; but suggested that it might help as a gentle stimulant, in combination with the alcohol dilution, to prevent the patient from being fully narcotised. This mixture, to which he had given the name of "chlorætherine"—it being, as it were, a concentrated chloric ether—had been exhibited at the Obstetrical Society October 1865, and had since been used largely by him in his own practice, and also by many others. He did not himself use inhalers; but they who did could administer his mixture in them as well as chloroform. For all practical purposes, he considered that, for a dilution of chloroform, a napkin folded cone-shape was most convenient. There were no particular directions with reference to its administration. It should not be given until the os uteri is well dilated, except in cases of rigidity of the os, when a few inhalations will speedily produce relaxation; nor should it be given after the child is born, although patients may often ask for it—so severe do they find the pain accompanying the birth of the placenta, after having been delivered of the child without pain. Mr. Brown concluded by relating cases which had occurred in his own practice, and two in which he had administered it for Mr. Philip Harper and for Dr. Abud. He also read letters from Dr. Sansom, and from Mr. Roberts, Honorary Surgeon Hull to the Lying-in Infirmary, supporting him in his belief that in chlorætherine we have as simple, efficacious, safe, and agreeable a method of relieving the pains of labour, as is yet known to the profession.

whose income is £600, on which he pays income-tax, £10; carriage, £2; horses (two), £2:2; groom, £1:1; altogether, £15:3. Suppose, on the other hand, a gentleman with a certain income of £900; on this he pays income-tax, £15. Thus the hardly worked practitioner pays more in taxation than another with an income half as large again. It may be said that a person with an income of £900 would probably keep an equipage. This may be so; but it would be a luxury, and articles of luxury ought certainly to stand on a different footing to that accorded to instruments of trade or industry. Or suppose, again, two persons of £200 a year each. One, a medical practitioner, pays in taxes £6:18:2; the other, a man whose occupation does not require rapid locomotion, pays £3:6:1, or less than half as much as the first.

This is not as it should be; and, while agitating for parliamentary medical reform, the not less substantial benefit of relief from unequal taxation should not be lost sight of.

I am, etc.,
WILLIAM DATE.

Ilkeston, April 1867.

THE PRIVILEGES OF THE PROFESSION.

LETTER FROM CHARLES W. BROWNE, Esq.

SIR,—I have always imagined that members of our profession were specially exempted from serving *all parochial offices*; but I have recently been informed by a taxing commissioner that we are not exempt from serving as "assessors of taxes". Is this so? And, if so, is it not clearly against the spirit of all the legislation, past and modern, as to medical men? The clergy and taxing commissioners, I am told, alone are free. Why the clergy more than medicine? Why the cure of souls more than that of the body? If this really be the case, it ought to be rectified, as it can clearly be only an omission.

I am, etc., CHAS. W. BROWNE.

Kew Green, W., April 1867.

MODE OF ELECTION AT THE MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

LETTER FROM F. J. BROWN, M.D.

SIR,—I advocate the conjunction of two modes of election for foundation scholarships and for pensions at the Medical Benevolent College, viz., seniority and majority of votes.

Let every candidate for the scholarship be elected that enters on the fourth year's list. Thus, at the approaching election, the three candidates in the fifth year and the three in the fourth year would be elected on the principle of seniority, whilst three candidates out of the junior lists (consisting of first, second, and third year's boys) would be elected on the ordinary principle of majority of votes. If in any case there should be fewer vacancies than candidates by seniority, selections might be made by the principle of majority of votes applied to the seniority list; thus, if there were two vacancies whilst there were four candidates, let the two with greatest number of votes be elected.

Respecting pensions, entrance on the third year's list should entitle to election by seniority.

The adoption of two modes of election would diminish the evils of the exclusive use of one, and is deserving the consideration of the profession.

I am, etc.,

FREDERICK JAMES BROWN, M.D.

Rochester, May 1867.

Medico-Parliamentary.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday, May 13th.

INDIAN MEDICAL OFFICERS.

In reply to MR. BAZLEY, Sir S. NORTHCOTE stated that the offer which the Government had made to the representatives of the Madras and Bombay Medical Retiring Funds had not been complied with, and they had been informed that they could retain the management of the fund in their own hands; if they resolved to do so, it would be for the Government to consider what amount of compensation should be awarded to the fund on account of the loss sustained by it. In each case an actuary would have to estimate the amount of compensation. The managers of the Bengal Medical Fund had agreed to the terms offered by the Government, and arrangements were now being made for a conditional transfer of the liabilities of the fund to the Government. With regard to the second question, he stated (as we understood) that the appointments referred to were of the nature of staff appointments, and in respect of compensation it had never been thought proper to deal with them in the same way as with ordinary commissions. All those appointments had been necessarily reduced in number in consequence of the reduction of the force; but in every other respect, including accelerated promotion and increase of pay, everything had been done to add to the attractions of the medical service.

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 9th.

Burton, John Earp, Lie. Fao. Phys. & Surgs., Glasgow, Liverpool
Cant, William Edmund, Colchester
Fisher, George, Bawtry, Yorkshire
Flower, Thomas, Codford St. Peter, Wiltshire
Fothergill, Henry Mann, Newcastle-on-Tyne
Lewis, Charles, Blackheath
Milne, Charles Wilson, Wandsworth
Penfold, Oliver, Blackmoor Street
Pring, John Williams, Festiniog, North Wales
Prosser, Richard Albert Shipman, Birmingham
Smith, William Wilberforce, Haverstock Hill
Spencer, Walter William, Liverpool
Stevens, William Edward, Pewsey, Wiltshire
Thorne, James, Jersey

It appears that out of the 59 candidates, only 7 were referred to their hospital studies for the usual period of six months.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On May 9th, 1867, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Bennett, William James, Dorchester
Fox, Alexander, London Hospital
Molyneaux, John Lea, Upholland, near Wigan
Powell, Scudamore Kydley, Newcastle-on-Tyne

APPOINTMENTS.

BARTLETT, T. H., M.B., elected Surgeon to the General Hospital, Birmingham.
HOFFMEISTER, William, M.D., appointed Joint-Surgeon to the Royal Yacht Squadron, with his father, Dr. Hoffmeister.
OAKLEY, Charles, L.R.C.P. Ed., elected Physician to the Salop Infirmary.
STYRUP, Jukes, L.K.Q.C.P.I., late Physician in Ordinary, has been appointed Physician Extraordinary to the Salop Infirmary.
WITKES, W. O., Esq., elected House-Surgeon to the Salop Infirmary.

PROSECUTION UNDER THE MEDICAL ACT
BY THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

At Marlborough Street, the Hon. Alfred Thesiger, instructed by Messrs. Wilde and Co., solicitors to the Royal College of Surgeons, applied to Mr. Tyrwhitt for a summons against Mr. Robert Jacob Jordan, the keeper of an anatomical museum in George Street, Hanover Square, for holding himself out to the world as a surgeon, his name having been removed from the roll of members. Mr. Thesiger stated that in 1839, Mr. Jordan was elected a member of the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1863, it having been brought to the knowledge of the managing body that he was the keeper of a disgusting anatomical museum, and also that he was publishing an indecent book, a correspondence ensued, the result of which was that, by order of the College, the name of Mr. Jordan was struck off the list of members. The College subsequently demanded back the diploma granted to Mr. Jordan, but he refused to return it, and matters rested for a time; but this year, in consequence of numerous complaints, the College had determined to take some effectual steps in the matter, and had instructed him to apply for a summons under the 21st and 22nd Victoria, cap. 90, sec. 40. One of the pamphlets circulated by Mr. Jordan was handed to Mr. Tyrwhitt. The pamphlet was inscribed "Nervous Exhaustion, and on the titlepage Mr. Jordan was described as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England. In another of his books, the diploma, which has been recalled by the College of Surgeons, was set forth. Mr. Tyrwhitt granted the summons.

The best thing which we can wish for this most laudable prosecution is that it may fail. Such a failure would demonstrate more clearly than anything else could the utter inefficiency of the penal clause of the Medical Act, and would be an useful spur to the further much needed amendment of the Act.

THE HEALTH OF LONDON continues satisfactory, notwithstanding the extreme vicissitudes of the weather, the deaths being last week 122 less than the estimated number.

MR. J. S. BARTERUM, President of the Bath and Bristol Branch has been appointed Magistrate for the city of Bath. Two other members the Council of this Branch are also in the commission, viz., Dr. Falconer, and Mr. R. N. Stone.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS IN ENGLAND. On Wednesday a return was issued which shows that in the year 1866 there were 187,519 marriages registered in England, 753,188 births, and 500,938 deaths.

COTTON CROPS OF EGYPT. A despatch, forwarded by the Foreign-office, was received by the Cotton Supply Association from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Egypt, inclosing a letter from a scientific chemist established in the country upon the subject of a new insect that has caused much havoc in the cotton crops of Egypt during the last two years. It is requested that the statement which has been prepared, and the case of specimens accompanying it, may be submitted to scientific inquiry in England, in order that means, if possible, may be discovered to prevent in future the losses occasioned by this scourge. The subject is under the consideration of competent parties.

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB. The usual monthly meeting was held at University College on the 26th inst., Mr. Ernest Hart, president, in the chair. Dr. Halifax described his ingenious method of obtaining thin sections of insects, soft vegetable tissues, minute seeds, etc., by immersion in wax, and afterwards slicing them upon the ordinary section table. Mr. Higgins gave a lengthened and interesting description of the "otolithes" or earbones of fishes, to the study of which he has devoted himself with remarkable industry for the last eighteen years. The result of many thousand examinations of fossil and recent fish has enabled him with positive accuracy to identify species, and in many instances genera. His remarks were illustrated by an extensive series of "otolithes," which were displayed in cases in the room, containing specimens obtained from the largest to the smallest fish, both freshwater and marine. The meeting, which was attended by upwards of 130 members and their friends, terminated with a *conversazione*. Eight members were elected.

DR. HJALTELIN, OF ICELAND. Among the foreign visitors at present residing in London is Dr. Hjaltelin, of Iceland, who is already favourably known to the British medical public by several scientific communications, translations of which have appeared in some of our medical journals. Dr. Hjaltelin is a native of Iceland, but he received his medical education in Denmark, to which the island belongs, and in Germany. One of the objects of Dr. Hjaltelin's visit to this country is to exhibit to the profession some specimens of cod-liver oil, prepared under his superintendence from the livers of the Icelandic cod, the fish being said to attain a very high degree of development in that hyperborean region.

STATISTICS OF FAMILIES IN NEW YORK. A curious return relating to families, shows that 25 per cent. of the families living in the State of New York were without children; 19 per cent. had one child; 18 per cent. had two children; 14 per cent. had three children; 9 per cent. had four children; 6 per cent. had five children; and 3 per cent. had six children. There were 4,641 families each with eight children; 1,630 families each with nine children; 454 families each with ten children; 136 families each with eleven children; and 35 families each with twelve children.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE. The cattle-plague is reported to have again made its appearance in Cornwall, and great uneasiness prevails in consequence. A cow, the property of Mr. Joll, farmer, of Calstock, suddenly became ill during the past week, and on Friday a veterinary surgeon declared it to be a bad case of cattle-plague. The animal was ordered to be killed. The cattle-plague has broken out in the eastern districts of Thuringia and Northern Bavaria. As the infection has been traced to the transport of Polish and Hungarian oxen to North Sea harbours, precaution in England may not be unnecessary. The passage of Austrian cattle through Prussian territory has been prohibited at once.

ORGANITES. At the last meeting of the Académie des Sciences, M. Pasteur, in a letter dated Alais, April 24th, and addressed to M. Dumas, says that until now the corpuscles forming the cause of the disease of silkworms were considered by him as organites; this designation being applied to such organisms which, like the globules of the blood, the grains of starch, or spermatozoa, have no power of propagating their species. Lately, however, he has been able to discover that their mode of generation, like that of some infusoria (*vibrio*) consists in the division of one corpuscle into several others. He

has also remarked in each parasitic globule a nucleus having the same oval shape as the former. He hopes soon to publish a more complete study of the disease. M. Béchamp, in a note on the same subject, describes the same mode of generation, and claims for himself the priority of the discovery of the parasitic nature of the disease.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. Professor Hancock will commence the delivery of his annual course of lectures at the College of Surgeons on Monday, the 3rd of June, and will give six lectures on the Anatomy and Surgery of the Foot, in continuation of his course of last year. The Council of the College of Surgeons has just announced the following as the subjects for two Jacksonian Prizes for the ensuing year, viz., "Pyæmia after Injuries and Operations; its Pathology, Causes, Symptoms, Prevention, and Treatment;" and "Amputations of the Limbs; the various modes of Operation now practised, their relative advantages, and the methods of arresting Primary Haemorrhage, and of Dressing the Stump; the dissertations to be illustrated by Cases, Drawings, and Casts."

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE. The distribution of prizes in the Faculty of Medicine took place on Monday, when the Right Hon. E. Cardwell, M.P., presided. In addition to the prizes held out as inducements to exertion, the council had thought it right to show their appreciation of the value of the education bestowed on the sons of members of the medical profession at the Royal Epsom Benevolent College by establishing four free scholarships for foundation scholars of that institution who should have passed the matriculation examination of London. This had emanated from a suggestion made by Dr. Carr, a late student of the college, who had also suggested that assistance should be extended to the sons of deceased members of the medical profession, or of those who were prevented by calamity or sickness from providing for the education of their families, and he had offered to raise a fund sufficient for the maintenance of those gentlemen during their student career, he himself contributing £1000. The following prizes were then distributed: *Chemistry*—Gold medal, A. R. Saunders; 1st silver medal, A. Gray; 2nd silver medal, D. A. Davies. *Certificates*—4th, A. Muirhead; 5th, W. G. Watson; 6th, C. H. Carter; 7th, L. Lewis; 8th, S. Coupland; 9th, E. J. Ramsey; 10th (equal), M. A. Tarkhadakar and W. R. Egdien. *Anatomy and Physiology*—Gold medal, R. L. Roberts; 1st silver medals (equal), R. T. Smith, and H. Newell Martin; 2nd certificate, A. Shewen. *Anatomy*—Gold medal, S. Peacock; 1st silver medal, W. J. Scott; 2nd silver medal, E. Desso; *Certificates*—4th, E. Snell; 5th, J. G. E. Bolton. *Junior Class*—Silver medal, J. B. Ball; *Certificates*—2nd, A. H. Carter; 3rd, C. H. Carter; 4th, G. J. Gray. *Medicine*—Gold medal, H. C. Gill; 1st silver medal, G. V. Poore; 2nd silver medal, L. Le Grand; *Certificates*—4th, J. W. Langmore; 5th, T. F. Hopgood; 6th (equal), T. Anderson and E. W. Minter; 8th (equal), C. F. Groom and W. Symes; 10th, T. C. Lloyd. *Surgery*—Gold Medal, T. E. Loy; 1st silver medal, T. F. Hopgood; 2nd silver medal, E. C. Shoppee; *Certificates*—4th, T. Anderson; 5th, L. Le Grand; 6th, D. Havard; 7th, R. Williams. *Comparative Anatomy*—Gold medal, Sidney Coupland; 2nd certificate, L. Lewis. *Special Class of Clinical Medicine*—First Prize, L. Le Grand; second prize, T. F. Hopgood; *Certificates*—3rd (equal), H. C. Gill and W. R. Gowers; 5th, J. D. Thomas. The chief portion of the business of the meeting having been gone through, Mr. Cardwell, in accordance with the usual custom, offered some appropriate remarks to those assembled.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

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

TUESDAY. Pathological Society of London, 6 P.M.

WEDNESDAY. British Archaeological Association, 8.30 P.M.

FRIDAY. Quekett Microscopical Club, University College. Mr. Ernest Hart, "On the Minute Structure of the Iris."

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; 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.

Mr. G. F. HODGSON, Brighton.—We fully concur in the indignation expressed, having, like our correspondent, had the most painful instances of this mutilation brought under our personal notice—on one most distressing case we saw this week. But we shrink from doing anything which can inflict an injury on a benevolent institution; and if the conduct of the gentleman named is to be called into question, it should be in a way not to involve that institution. But we incline to regard it as a false step, "rather to be grieved than to be girded at"; and probably our correspondents will agree in that view.

MEPHITIC ATMOSPHERE OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY. Mr. THOS. GOODCHILD, writing to the *Builder* on this subject (raised by the observations in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL), says:

"The removal of the noxious air would, indeed, be a desideratum; but the suggestion of A. J. B.' would, I think, hardly meet the case. Ventilating-shafts from the crown of the tunnel would be inconvenient above, while they would most probably fail to effect the object of their erection, the foul gases being so much heavier than the usual mixture of common air. A more likely plan appears to me to be the reversed siphon principle; the shorter end of the tubes terminating in large gratings between the metals on the permanent way, while the longer arms might be continued indefinitely under the platforms, etc., and rise in convenient out-of-the-way spots, where fans and gas-taps might be used to promote the efficiency of their action. The heavy air would thus be drawn or drained off from below, while dilution would be going on by the influx of fresh air from the ordinary grated openings at the road-level above. An apparatus of this kind would, I think, be nearly self-acting."

A SANITARY RECORD.

An able and active member of the Association writes:—"With your extensive machinery, I should think you might readily organise a system for giving in the JOURNAL an annual report of the health-condition of the kingdom, noting the prevalence of diseases in certain districts, and distinct from the reports of the Registrar-General, which only refer to the causes of death. You would move the local secretaries, and they could stimulate the members in different districts, and thus a very brilliant report could be prepared for appearance in January, as a supplement to one of the numbers of the JOURNAL. If the idea is worth carrying out, it should be acted on as soon as possible, so that men may begin to record their experiences."

* * * We should be glad to hear from gentlemen willing to take part in this useful work, and to receive suggestions for its organisation.

MR. HOWARD MARSH.—We have placed the letter in the hands of Mr. Thomas Richards, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C., to whom all communications on the subject of the transmission of the JOURNAL should be addressed.

RETENTION OF URINE.

SIR.—Would you kindly inform me, in an ordinary case of retention of urine, whether the patient holding his water for twenty-four hours, would be dangerous to life, and would cause apoplexy?

I am, etc.,

A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION.

* * * Retention of urine varies so much with age and cause, that no exact opinion can be formed, without knowing the precise circumstances of the case. It is difficult to believe that the mere existence of mechanical retention (not suppression) during twenty-four hours, could be a cause of apoplexy. Indirectly, however, if the patient was the subject of severe straining, which, although involuntary, is often very severe, in order to relieve his bladder, the vessels of the head might be congested during the paroxysm.

DR. HENRY G. WRIGHT.—The idea seems to us a very good one. Would Dr. Wright be willing to give his active co-operation?

We are much obliged to Dr. Gordon for his communication, and shall return to the subject next week.

COMPARATIVE MORTALITY OF MATERNITIES AND DOMICILIARY LYING-IN CHARITIES.

SIR.—The author of the "Report on the Comparative Mortality of Maternities and Domiciliary Lying-in Charities", in the JOURNAL of May 4th, has made a slight error in supposing that no records are kept of the Out-patient Charity in connection with the British Lying-in Hospital. As physician to the Out-patients Department of that Institution, I beg to say that accurate records are kept of all facts possessing an interest in statistics. Since the year 1862, there have been 2252 deliveries under my superintendence.

At the hospital a book is kept, in which the following details are registered:—The date of the application for the midwife's order; the patient's name and residence; her age; and the number of children, living and dead, that she may have had; also, the number of miscarriages, the time she expects to be delivered, and the name of the midwife who is to attend her. The order for attendance is furnished with the following form.

Form to be filled up by the Midwife before leaving the Patient's Room.

Presentation and position.	Labour began at.	Date and hour of delivery.	Placenta expelled at.	Child.	
				Sex.	Alive or still-born.

Remarks.

State if any accident } during labour.

Delivered personally, and signed by me,

Midwife.

Now, inasmuch as the regulations to midwives obliges them to send a written message to me "in all cases of difficulty or danger during or after labour", it is clear that no case of interest, accident, or death, can escape my observation. As I have kept a minute account of all cases to which I have been called, I shall be happy to afford your correspondent any information upon the subject which he may desire.

I am, etc.,

HENRY E. EASTLAKE, F.K.Q.C.P., etc.

Welbeck Street, Cavendish Square, May 1867.

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.

FIELD HOSPITALS.

SIR.—I read with much interest the remarks in your leading article on Colonel Reilly's report upon the arrangements of the Field Hospitals, and the means of treatment, or rather want of them, for the wounded men in the Prussian army during the war of last year. It struck me to be very strange that we should have to depend upon the observations of a combatant officer for our knowledge on such subjects. There was a talk in Parliament last year about some army surgeons being sent to Germany to study the practical lessons in military surgery, which the war there, being on so vast a scale, was capable of teaching; and I am now informed that one surgeon was sent, not however while the war was in progress, or even while his wounds were fresh, but weeks afterwards, when the armies had been broken up, and the troops had returned to their quarters. There was only hearsay then. Are we professionally perfect that it is not worth the cost to the Government to obtain further information on these matters when the opportunity of obtaining it is offered? Your remarks seem to indicate that the only recorded professional observations we have of the previous war in Germany in 1864, are by Mr. Little, of the London Hospital, who was there as an amateur, I presume; and as to the war in Italy in 1859, we have no personal observations from any English surgeon whatever, I believe, whether civil or military.

I am, etc., SURGEON MAJOR.

PRELIMINARY EDUCATION.

SIR.—Will you please answer me the following question in your next issue of the JOURNAL?

Having passed the Preliminary Examination in Arts and Sciences at Apothecaries' Hall, in the autumn of 1865, is it compulsory to pass another examination on the same subjects at the Royal College of Surgeons, before commencing study at a medical school?

I am, etc., DENTOID.

* * * It is not necessary.

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

The Right Honble. Gathorne Hardy, M.P.; Mr. H. T. Whitting, Croydon; Mr. J. Lardner Green, Tisbury, Wilts; Lord Robert Montagu; Mr. F. Whitwell, Shrewsbury; Dr. Frederick J. Brown, Rochester (with enclosure); Messrs. W. V. Wright & Co.; The Honorary Secretary of the Epidemiological Society; Dr. Southey (with enclosure); Mr. T. M. Stone; Mr. Holmes; Dr. J. Althaus (with enclosure); Dr. W. F. Wade, Birmingham; Mr. Barnard Holt; Mr. B. E. Brodhurst; The Hon. Sec. of the Social Science Association; Mr. Howard Marsh; Mr. Wm. Copney; Dr. Henry G. Wright; Mr. Lawson; Dr. Benisch (with enclosure); Mr. John D. Hill; Mr. Seymour Haden; Dr. Maudsley; Mr. J. Sandwith, Beverley; Dr. Hugh Thomson, Glasgow; Dr. T. Snow Beck (with enclosure); Mr. J. Hawley (with enclosure); Mr. George Stilwell, Epsom; Dr. Oakley, Shrewsbury; Mr. Watkin Williams, Birmingham; Dr. Sankey, Cheltenham; Mr. Langston, Westminster; Dr. Burland; Mr. F. Pitman; Dr. S. Gordon, Dublin (with enclosure); Mr. E. Bellamy; The Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh; Dr. A. Samelson, Manchester (with enclosure); Mr. J. S. Leigh, Ransgate; Mr. W. F. Coles, Croydon; Dr. Coutts, Aberdeen; Dr. Hoffmeister, Cowes; Mr. J. Reeve Shorte, Southampton; Mr. Hodgson, Brighton; Mr. R. S. Fowler, Bath; The Registrar-General of England; The Honorary Secretary of the Harveian Society of London; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Dr. Seaton, Sunbury; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Dr. Gordon, Dublin; Mr. C. J. Fox; Dr. F. C. Howes, Diss, Norfolk; Dr. Hillier; and Dr. Leared.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

Observations on the Comparative Advantages of affording Obstetric Attendance on Poor Women in Lying-in Hospitals and in their own Homes. By D. Phelan, M.R.C.S. Dublin: 1867.

Brande's Dictionary of Science, Literature, and Art. London: 1867. A Practical Treatise on Savings Banks. By A. Scratchley. London: 1867.

Cases of Fever, with Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis; with Remarks. By Samuel Gordon, M.B. Dublin: 1867.

On the Management of Labour in Contracted Pelvis. By William H. Jones. London: 1867.

On the Anatomy of the Crested Agouti; and Notes on the Osteology of the Insectivora. By St. George Mivart, F.L.S.

The Chronicle, May 11th.

The Laboratory, May 11th.