

Special Correspondence.

EDINBURGH.

AN Edinburgh correspondent of authority writes:—

Your readers will perhaps like to have the earliest information of what is talked of here with reference to our contemplated representation in Parliament. The two gentlemen named as likely to come forward to contest the seat to be allotted to the University constituencies of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh are, Mr. Campbell Swinton, and Dr. Lyon Playfair, C.B. The former is a member of the Scotch Bar, said to be conservative in his politics, and was formerly Professor of Civil Law in the University of Edinburgh. The latter is a well-known man of science, the Professor of Chemistry in the University, a member of the medical faculty, and has long taken an active part in advocating the claims of men of science to public recognition, and in bringing before the leading politicians of the day the importance of scientific training in connexion with arts and manufactures. As a member of the medical faculty, he is conversant with medical politics, and with all the great sanitary questions of the day. He looks for support to the medical element of the constituency more especially; and, from his business habits, scientific standing, and extensive acquaintance with leading politicians, is likely, if returned as member for the Universities, to do good service to science and the profession.

If you feel that the legal element is already sufficiently well represented in the House, and that the medical and scientific element needs strengthening, perhaps you might feel yourself able to say something in favour of Dr. Playfair's claims to represent St. Andrew's and Edinburgh Universities in Parliament.

Writing again at a later date, he adds:—

The Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, Mr. Moncrieff, is also a probable candidate. He is at present a representative of the city of Edinburgh; but, on account of his opinions as to some questions of local taxation, he is not very popular with the trading element, and not likely, therefore, to be returned again for the city. He is also a prominent member of the Whig party, and looks for support from the Whig section of the legal element in our constituency, which is large and influential. Mr. Moncrieff has for many years held the office of Lord Advocate for Scotland, has had the disposal of a considerable amount of church patronage, and therefore may look for support from many members of the clerical element in the constituency. He is a much more formidable legal opponent than Mr. Swinton; and it is very important, therefore, that our medical graduates should unite in the support of one candidate, who may be, from his social, professional, and scientific position, generally acceptable. From what I hear, Dr. Playfair is likely to receive a large share of medical support in Edinburgh; and, from his local connexion with St. Andrew's, there is reason to believe he will have many supporters in that part of the constituency. If the English graduates could unite in his favour, there is great hope that he would

be carried; but, if a split should take place in the medical camp, then I fear the chief legal candidate would come off the conqueror. It would be a great pity if the cause we have all at heart were to suffer through our counsels being divided.

Association Intelligence.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

THE Annual meeting of the above Branch will be held on Thursday, June 6th, at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, at 1.30 P.M.; ALBERT NAPPER, Esq., in the Chair.

Dinner at 5 P.M. precisely. Tickets, not including wine, seven shillings.

Gentlemen desiring to bring forward communications will be pleased to give notice to the Secretary one week before the meeting.

C. HOLMAN, M.D., *Secretary*.

Reigate, May 23rd, 1867.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Hen and Chickens Hotel, Birmingham, on Friday, June 14th, at 3 P.M.; when an address will be given by SAMUEL BERRY, Esq., the President.

The annual dinner will take place at 5 o'clock punctually; dinner tickets, 7s. 6d. each, inclusive of waiters and dessert.

The Council meeting of the Branch will be held on the same day and at the same place at 2.30 P.M.

T. H. BARTLEET, *Hon. Secretary*.

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.

CAMBRIDGE AND HUNTINGDON BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held, in conjunction with the East Anglian Branch, at the Athenæum, King's Lynn, on Thursday, June 20th, at 2 P.M.; J. V. HAWKINS, M.D., King's Lynn, President.

Members intending to read papers or cases are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary at their earliest convenience.

P. W. LATHAM, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.

Cambridge, May 28th, 1867.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held in Chester, on Wednesday, June 26th, at 2 P.M.; John Harrison, Esq., President, in the Chair.

Dinner at 4.30 P.M.

Gentlemen intending to read papers or cases, are requested to forward the titles of the same to the Honorary Secretary, without delay.

HENRY SIMPSON, M.D., *Hon. Secretary*.

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Athenæum, King's Lynn, on Thursday, June 20th, at 2 P.M. President for 1866-67, T. W. Crosse, Esq.; President for 1867-68, J. V. Hawkins, M.D., King's Lynn.

Members are invited to attend in accordance with the following resolution, which was passed at the last annual meeting, held in Norwich. Moved by Dr. Copeman, Norwich, and seconded by Mr. Cadge, Norwich: "That the next annual meeting of the East Anglian Branch be held, in combination with the Cambridge and Huntingdon Branch, at Lynn, and that Dr. Hawkins be elected President."

Gentlemen intending to read short papers or cases, or to be present at the dinner, are requested to communicate with the President-elect, or the Honorary Secretaries, without delay. Dinner tickets, 12s. 6d.

B. CHEVALLIER, M.D., Ipswich } Hon.
J. B. PITT, M.D., Norwich } Secs.

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.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A MEETING of this Society was held on Thursday, May 16th, at the Crystal Palace; J. M. BRIGHT, M.D., of Forest Hill, in the Chair.

Papers, etc. 1. Dr. J. BRAXTON HICKS read a paper on the Cephalotribe. He began by showing drawings of the different kinds of instruments that had been invented for crushing the fetal head, and exhibited the modification of these he had himself devised and brought into use for the purpose. The advantages of this, in point of size and handiness, were very apparent; and its perfect efficiency was illustrated by exhibiting its action on a recently perforated fetal head. Dr. Hicks dwelt on the necessity of perforation being (with very rare exceptions) always performed before the application of the cephalotribe, and explained the different modes of its action on the skull. The cephalotribe, it was shown, is not intended to do away with perforation, but to be used in those cases in which, after perforation, the dimensions of the head were still not sufficiently reduced. Some remarks were made on the defects or difficulties that may attend the use of the instrument, the chief being the tendency to its slipping; and the paper concluded with a brief account of the cases in which Dr. Hicks had had experience of its use.

Dr. Hicks received a cordial vote of thanks for his paper. A general discussion ensued on the subject, and on the use of the forceps, etc., in midwifery.

2. Mr. ROPER exhibited a specimen of Syphilitic Disease of the Larynx. The patient suffered about fifteen months ago from syphilitic laryngitis, aggravated by intemperance and neglect. He was brought into the Croydon Workhouse Infirmary almost asphyxiated, and Mr. Roper found it necessary to perform tracheotomy. The case progressed satisfactorily; but the larynx remained so obstructed that

the tube could not be removed, and the man was eventually discharged with it still *in situ*. The next time Mr. Roper saw the man was quite recently, in the dead-house. It appeared that, in a fit of drunkenness, he had removed the tube, and had been asphyxiated. The specimen showed destruction of the vocal cords and considerable submucous thickening, with great narrowing, amounting almost to complete closure, of the canal of the larynx.

Mr. Roper also gave the history of an interesting case that had recently occurred in his midwifery practice.

3. Dr. LANCHESTER read the notes of a case of Hernia, in which, part of the swelling having been reduced, it was for some time doubtful whether the remaining portion was strangulated or not. Eventually, it was deemed advisable to operate, and the patient did well.

New Members. Messrs. James of Forest Hill, and Tomkins of Beddington, joined the Society.

The Dinner took place at 6 P.M.

DISCUSSION ON THE VACCINATION BILL.

A MEETING of the Parliamentary Committee of the Metropolitan Counties Branch was held on the 21st instant, at 37, Soho Square; Dr. HENRY in the Chair.

On the motion of Mr. ERNEST HART, seconded by Mr. HECKSTALL SMITH, it was resolved—

"That, in future, an abstract of the proceedings of this Committee and its Subcommittee be regularly furnished for publication in the JOURNAL."

Dr. GIBBON stated the steps that were taken in the House of Commons to give effect to the suggestions of the Committee for improving the machinery of the Metropolitan Poor Bill.

The Vaccination Bill was read and discussed clause by clause.

In Clause 6, it was resolved, that the minimum scale of fees fixed for the operation should each be increased by one shilling, so as to be 2s. 6d., 3s., and 4s., instead of 1s. 6d., 2s., and 3s. In support of the expediency of this alteration, it was mentioned that, of the metropolitan parishes, the two that were best vaccinated and freest from small-pox, were Hampstead and Putney, where the fee was fixed at 3s. 6d.; that the great majority of boards of guardians fix the fee at the Parliamentary minimum.

It was thought desirable that Clause 8, providing for re-vaccination, and these to be done at a reduced fee, should be expunged as unnecessary.

In Clause 15, Mr. HART proposed, Dr. PAUL seconded, and it was carried—

"That it be suggested to add a provision, that the registrar shall send a list of births quarterly to the public vaccinator."

Clauses 21, 22, 23, 24, and 29, relating to certificates of successful vaccination, and their registration by the district registrars, were considered together. An opinion was expressed by some, that it was degrading to a liberal profession like that of medicine to subject its members, upon a summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding twenty shillings (Clause 29), for refusing to fill up, free of charge, certificates of vaccination, or for neglecting to send them by post to the registrar who recorded the birth of the patient within twenty-one days after the operation; especially when Clause 22 prohibits any remuneration being paid for the trouble of these certificates.

Dr. GIBBON proposed, as was done last year, that the certificates required of the practitioner should be limited to one of successful vaccination, to be handed

to the patient if requested; and that the attempt, futile as it had hitherto proved, of forming a public register of cow-pox, be altogether abandoned.

Mr. HART said that his confidence in the Medical Department of the Privy Council and its inspectors was such, that he would suggest that the matter be further considered and discussed before a decision was come to.

It was accordingly agreed, that the meeting should be adjourned until Tuesday, May 28th, at 4 P.M., when the vaccinators and other practitioners interested, were invited to attend.

At the adjourned meeting, held May 28th, Mr. ROGERS-HARRISON took the Chair. Amongst those present were, Dr. William Farr, F.R.S.; Dr. E. C. Seaton, Privy Council Inspector of Vaccination; Mr. Ernest Hart; Dr. Coles (Croydon); Mr. Wheeler (Bexley); Mr. Lilley (Lambeth); Dr. Spooner (Holborn); Dr. Tilbury Fox; Mr. Bottomley (Croydon); Dr. Leared; Dr. Wynn Williams; Mr. W. Martin; Mr. Curgenvin; Dr. Merriman; Dr. Gibbon; etc.

Dr. GIBBON, the Honorary Secretary, said that the matters of debate adjourned were, first, as to the utility of a public registration of certificates of vaccination; and secondly, as to the policy of reducing the time allowed for vaccination from three months to six weeks or two months after birth. Last year, he said, the Committee felt strongly the injustice and the indignity that these registration clauses would inflict on medical practitioners, who are required to act as chief agents, without fee or reward (Clauses 21 and 22), in the compilation of this Cowpox Register; and, if they do not so act in filling up and sending certificates to the registrar who registered the birth, they are made liable (Clause 29), on a summary conviction, to two penalties of 20s. each. They endeavoured to get Mr. H. A. Bruce, who then had charge of the Bill, to omit these fines; but without success. The Committee then unanimously decided to oppose the whole system of registration of vaccination, on the following grounds: 1. Because such register, formed as proposed, would always be incomplete and delusive for statistical purposes, and of no practical utility, as is proved by the present register; 2. Because such compulsory register will, by the penalties, the certificates, and the trouble it imposes on parents and practitioners, discourage rather than stimulate vaccination; 3. Because, if the cost of registration were saved, Boards of Guardians could better afford to increase the remuneration of the public vaccinator (the main desideratum for promoting vaccination); 4. Because the saving of unprofitable labour to medical gentlemen, who are required not only to fill up and sign, but to "transmit by post or otherwise," these certificates B, C, and D, to the right registrar, will be considerable. These reasons, coupled with the fact that the Registrar-General, who was appealed to, pronounced the scheme propounded for registration to be impracticable, induced the Duke of Buckingham and Mr. Corry to withdraw this very measure last year. As to reducing the time for vaccination, it is suggested as a practical measure to promote vaccination by obviating procrastination on the part of parents, and preventing the operation being mixed up and interfered with by the eruptions, etc., of teething.

Dr. E. C. SEATON stated that, in many country unions, the register of vaccinations was sufficiently complete for all practical purposes; that it is not required for legal prosecutions; that in the best vaccinated districts, such as that of Mold, of which an account had been opportunely published in a late number of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, no prose-

cution had ever needed to be instituted. The registrars, for the sake of the 8d. fee, were very useful in hunting out cases of neglected vaccination, and sending them to the public vaccinator. In this way, he believed, many registrars, especially in the unions of Kent, are active promoters of vaccination. The register is the foundation of successful vaccination in the country; but the metropolis requires special legislation, which, at some future period, can be made an adjunct to the Metropolis Poor Act. The register also serves to check the fees of the public vaccinators. In answer to Dr. Farr, he stated that last night Lord Robert Montagu laid on the table of the House of Commons an amendment to the effect that the public vaccinator should not be paid for the operation unless the certificate was duly registered. The registration of cowpox cases under the Scotch Act was quite successful.

Mr. BOTTOMLEY thought vaccination ought to be an imperial, national matter. The present Bill, continuing the matter in the hands of Boards of Guardians, was a disgrace to the country, and ought to be petitioned against. He referred to letters he had published on the subject some years back.

Mr. LILLEY, who had been largely engaged in vaccination, thought the following legal provisions all that were necessary or expedient. "A fine for non-registration of birth. One certificate from any and every qualified practitioner, stating that the child had been either successfully vaccinated, or was insusceptible of it. On delivery of this certificate, whether it related to rich or poor, by the operator to the registrar or person appointed by the guardians, he should receive a small fee, say 2s.; and a penalty on parents for non-vaccination." The fee, if paid for every child, rich and poor, need be but small. No fear need be apprehended for the supply of lymph, with our present means of preserving it.

Mr. CURGENVEN said a compulsory register of all births was a primary requisite for complete vaccination. A cow-pox register, he thought, might assist; but our present register of births in poor localities was defective to the extent of ten per cent. Therefore, the parents of this ten per cent. never so much as heard that vaccination was a legal necessity.

Dr. COLES alluded to the improvements in the machinery of registering certificates which he published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of the 18th inst. The registrar ought to be the only prosecutor.

Mr. ERNEST HART said he had personally brought those suggestions under the notice of Lord Robert Montagu, and had received the promise of attention for them.

Dr. GIBBON, as there was no motion before the meeting, in order to expedite the business, moved that the Committee endeavour to get all the Clauses 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 29, relating to the public registration of cow-pox cases struck out.

Mr. BOTTOMLEY at first said he would second the motion; but, as he approved the Scotch system of registration, he eventually declined; and the motion was seconded by Mr. W. MARTIN.

Dr. FARR said the Act of 1853 was a private measure introduced by Lord Lyttelton; and the then Home Secretary, Lord Palmerston, intended to have the registration clauses struck out, but by an accident it was omitted. He shewed, by reference to registrar's books, one well kept by a medical practitioner, that the registration of vaccinations was impracticable under the present law; and he argued, by statistics of education, etc., that it would be still less practicable under the new Bill. The promotion of vaccination in the few districts referred to by Dr. Seaton, were probably assignable to other causes than this very incomplete register. In Scotland, the only

thing that was proved yet was, that vaccination has been attempted—that it was successful is a very different matter. There is no obligation under the Scotch Act that the case shall be inspected on the eighth day, and before the certificate is given. As to the question of Registration, the scheme propounded in the present Bill has been pronounced by the Registrar-General to be impracticable and unworkable. He could not conceive of any prosecutor trusting to the *prima facie* evidence of the Registrar for grounding legal proceedings when he could appeal direct to the child's arms.

Mr. ERNEST HART said, that, before the vote was taken, he would beg the Committee to consider the responsibilities involved in the suggested resolution. Dr. SEATON had shown that registration properly carried out in England had, in a great number of districts, led to most effective vaccination. In Scotland, it had produced practically universal vaccination. The Government, in their present Bill, were acting upon the advice of Mr. Simon and Dr. Seaton, the official medical authorities, who had devoted for years special attention to the subject. It was very undesirable that the Committee should stand between the medical advisers of the Government and the legislature, and ask for the rejection of these clauses, which the official medical heads at the Privy Council thought vital to their Bill, unless it were quite certain that the Committee were right, and Mr. Simon and Dr. Seaton were wrong. It was asking the Government to distrust those who, on the contrary, we ought to wish that they should trust; and it was displaying a want of unity which would be disheartening to the authorities, and would weaken medical influence, which sadly wanted strengthening. Without attempting to decide the issues raised, he would strongly advise that, with this expression of opinion, the responsibility of the measure should be left with Mr. Simon and Dr. Seaton, who seemed confident of the necessity of registration.

Dr. SEATON explained that he had not examined children's arms in Scotland. There the parent had to keep and register the certificate. All the Privy Council Inspectors of Vaccination agreed as to the great use of Registration in promoting vaccination. They could not afford to give up the effective means they had of proving successful vaccination.

The CHAIRMAN observed that none but members of the Committee could vote, and put the motion, which was lost.

Mr. BOTTOMLEY then moved, and Mr. ERNEST HART seconded—

“That, if vaccination be registered, it should be by simply entering the fact—as under the Scotch Act—in a column of the birth register.”

Dr. SEATON said that this would entirely meet the view of the Privy Council Department, and was, in fact, what they ardently desired, if the Registrar-General would assist them by making it possible. This would, however, require special arrangements. The Registrar-General's assistance was necessary, and hitherto he had not shown any willingness to give it.

Mr. HART said that it was a matter of the greatest importance that the public departments having joint interest in this question should cordially assist each other. The Committee were very fortunate in having Dr. Farr and Dr. Seaton present at this meeting, and it was with that view that he had moved the adjournment of the last meeting, and the summoning of the present conference.

Dr. FARR said that he cordially concurred in the desire for unity of action. If registration were to be carried out, the Scotch plan was decidedly the best: and he himself would be very happy to

assist in framing clauses for the purpose, if the Registrar-General would give his authority.

The resolution was then put to the vote, and carried *nem. con.*

Dr. GIBSON then moved, and Mr. BOTTOMLEY seconded, and it was carried, that the Committee endeavour to obtain an alteration in Clause 29, imposing penalties on medical practitioners for not filling up and sending certificates of vaccination.

After some discussion on the reduction of time allowed for vaccination, in which Dr. Wynn Williams, Mr. Wheeler, and others, took part, it was decided not to attempt any alteration.

Letters were read from Mr. T. Heckstall Smith, Dr. Ballard, and Mr. Fenwick Hele, on the above points.

It was resolved that Lord R. Montagu be requested to receive a deputation from the Committee to explain the amendments they desire to see effected in the Bill.

Reports of Societies.

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.

MARCH 6TH, 1867.

HENRY BROWNE, M.D., President, in the Chair.

Intestinal Obstruction. Dr. SIMPSON read notes of a case of Obstruction of the Bowel. The patient, a lady, aged 49, was seen on February 15th, with Mr. Hutchinson. Last summer, she had slipped down two stone steps, and felt, immediately afterwards, a pain low down in the abdomen, as if something had been strained. This pain continued to trouble her. Five or six weeks afterwards, she noticed, on one occasion, some black clotted blood in the stool; but there had at no time been any dysentery or fever. The bowels were, in general, pretty regular; but for some months before her present illness, she had been subject to attacks of sudden, severe pain in the lower part of the abdomen. On the evening of the 14th February, feeling some uneasiness in the bowels, she took two aperient pills, which produced griping, but no evacuation. From 5 A.M. on the 15th to late at night, she had frequent violent colicky pains accompanied with bilious vomiting. Mr. Hutchinson saw her that morning, and prescribed two grains of calomel and one grain of opium, and she afterwards took four grains of extract of henbane and watery extract of aloes. Two enemata were given during the afternoon. When seen by Dr. Simpson at 11 P.M., there was some slight flatulent distension of the abdomen. No hernia and no abdominal tumour. There was very slight tenderness on pressure. Half a grain of morphia and two minims of hydrocyanic acid were administered immediately, and a quarter of a grain of the former ordered every three hours. The abdomen was covered with a large warm poultice; and an enema given with the O'Beirne tube. This brought away some fæces, and gave great relief. Next day, the patient was rather better; the vomiting had ceased, and there was much less pain and spasm. She continued much the same for the next few days. The general symptoms were not urgent. Her appetite was moderately good. Pulse 80. The long tube was used once a day, bringing away small fragments of fæces. On the 21st, she was not quite so well—somewhat feverish. The long tube gave more pain than formerly; but two feet and a half were passed into the bowel, and a considerable quantity of warm water was injected. Much of it returned at once, and a large quantity was also retained. At

of ships were bound to serve it out after the crews have been ten days on salt provisions. During the passage of these Acts through Parliament the appointment of inspectors was transferred from the Board of Trade to Local Marine Boards, and it appears from printed correspondence laid before Parliament last Session, that they decline to appoint any. The limejuice might either be bad in itself, or spoilt by storage in improper vessels. There was a penalty in the Act for selling adulterated limejuice, but it was necessary to prove that it was sold to a particular ship; there was no power of inspecting limejuice on the premises, nor any penalty for keeping it in store. There was no provision for keeping the limejuice in proper vessels. For two years past the Board of Trade had inquired into every bad case of scurvy, and in many cases both accommodation and provisions had been excellent. A Bill would shortly be introduced by the President of the Board of Trade to remedy these defects in the law; and a consultation was going on with the Customs on the subject of mixing spirits and limejuice in bond, in order that it might be taken on board mixed, together with the other bonded stores. Hon. members would find the fullest information on this important subject in papers laid before Parliament during the last and the present Session.

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 21st.

Angove, Edward Scudamore, Camborne, Cornwall
Baldwin, Henry Schofield, M.D. Queen's University, Ireland,
Burnley, Lancashire
Briscoe, Thomas Benjamin, Calcutta
Estcourt, Henry, Manchester
Field, George Purdey, Sussex Gardens
Helsdon, Frederic Anthony, North Walsham
Hogg, Christopher Haynes Jenner, Birmingham
Leonard, William, Sheffield
Robinson, Charles Augustus, Kingston, Jamaica
Shaw, Frederick Charles, Hampstead
Shorter, Henry Goldsworthy, Hastings
Steele, Henry Murray, Harrington Street
Waylen, Frederick Henry, Haverstock Hill
Webb, Thomas Edward, Aylesford, Kent
White, John Campbell, Princes Street, Westminster
Williams, William Edwin, L.S.A., Llanhilleth, Newport
Williams, Wm. Jones, M.D. Edin. & L.R.C.P. Lond., Port Madoe

Admitted on May 22nd—

Dalby, William Bartlett, M.B. Cantab., Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Gordon, Charles Goate, L.S.A., Boxford, Suffolk
Haddelsey, Charles Turner, Caistor
Hunter, John Henry, Youghal
Little, Edward Moore, Melksham, Wilts
McKenzie, John, Inverness
Minor, Richard, Sudbury, Derbyshire
Secombe, Edward Hepburne, Clapham
Vernède, Frederick Edwin, Blomfield Street, Bayswater

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. Degree of Doctor of Medicine conferred on May 23rd:

Blandford, George Fielding, Wadham

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE. Degree of Doctor of Medicine conferred on May 20th:

Sturges, Octavius, Emmanuel College

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On May 23rd, 1867, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Wallace, Frederick, Hackney Road
Woodhams, John Amos, Bourn, Lincolnshire

As Assistant:—

Owen, Edward, Newtown, Montgomeryshire

THE MEDICAL COUNCIL AND THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting of the Committee of Council, on Tuesday, a resolution was carried to the effect, that the Committee of Council of the British Medical Association should give their support to the Medical Council in their endeavours to amend the Medical Act and to improve medical education; and they trust that the various Branches will at their annual meetings give their support to the Medical Council by means of petitions to both Houses of Parliament, and representations to Her Majesty's Government and to individual members of Parliament.

It was also resolved, that petitions be presented to both Houses of Parliament in favour of the Amendments proposed by the Medical Council in the Medical Act, and that such petitions shall be signed on behalf of the Committee by the President of the Council.

The subject of the constitution of the Medical Council was considered, and it was resolved, that it be a recommendation to the Medical Council to include in their Bill a clause conferring representation on the Council of the profession at large, such representation to be signed by the President of the Council on behalf of the Committee.

We give the substance of their resolutions (which will appear formally next week in the "Association Intelligence") because we wish at once to draw attention to them while the Council is sitting, and in order that the members meeting in Branches may, if they desire to do so, take forthwith the proceedings recommended to urge and assist in the amendment of the Medical Bill, and the full representation of the profession in the Council.

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB. The ordinary monthly meeting was held in the library of University College, on Friday evening, May 24th, Mr. Ernest Hart, President, in the chair. A paper was read by Mr. M. C. Cooke, on "Binocular Vision." The President read a paper on "Iris and Ciliary Muscle," in which he demonstrated the structure and direction of the ciliary or accommodative muscle of the eye in man, ruminants, and birds; and showed that there are presented no circular or sphinctral fibres in the latter, and discredited their existence in the former. The paper was illustrated with enlarged diagrams and an extensive collection of injected specimens under the microscope. The meeting, which was numerously attended by members and their friends, terminated with a *conversazione*. Ten members were elected.

ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES. The proposed reform of the Italian Universities is a topic of considerable interest at the present moment. According to the plan put forward, they are to be reduced from fourteen to seven, those of Naples, Turin, Bologna, Palermo, Padua, Pisa, and Pavia being retained and regulated by the State. Four of these will be complete; that is to say, they will have the faculties of medicine, jurisprudence, and philosophy. One of the most important concerns the formation of commissions or juries charged with the final examination—independent of the instructing body—of all students throughout the kingdom who aspire to a doctor's degree. Competent judges declare the project good; and, if it be so, the merit is due to a former Minister of Public Instruction. Everything the Bill contains is to be found in the project drawn up last autumn by Professor Matteucci, well known for his unceasing exertions in the cause of education in Italy.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 8 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 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. Epidemiological Society, 8 P.M. Dr. T. Clifford Allbutt, "On the Prevention of Typhus and other Diseases by Improvement of the Dwellings of the Poor."—Odontological Society. Professor Owen, F.R.S., "On the Dental Characters of New Genera and Species of Fossil Fishes, from the Low Main Seam and Shales of Coal, Northumberland."

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

WEDNESDAY. Obstetrical Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. Barnes, "Cases and Remarks illustrating the History of Pregnancy, complicated with Small-Pox." Dr. Hicks, "On a Case of Extruterine Fecundation." Dr. Hailey, "Case of Retention in Utero of the greater portion of a Dead Fœtus for a period of Four Years"; and other papers. Council Meeting, 7.30 P.M.

FRIDAY. Western Medical and Surgical Society of London, 8 P.M. The Annual Meeting. The Election of Officers for next Session. The Report of the Council and the Financial Report will be read. Dr. Marcet will make some observations "On a New Process for Preparing Meat for Weak Stomachs."

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.

We have received a guinea from Mr. R. Gardiner Hill for the Field Defence Fund.

DR. WHITEHEAD'S (Manchester) request shall be attended to.

WHITE VACCINE VIRUS.

An advertisement in an American medical paper announces for sale "vaccine virus, fresh, from healthy white children". Would vaccine virus, fresh from healthy black children, differ in its properties? or is the objection merely sentimental? We should have no objection to be vaccinated from a negro, and should like to hear any one explain his objection.

We have received special correspondence from Edinburgh, Dublin, Calcutta, and Berlin.

THE pressure on our space this week compels us to omit the elaborate and able document containing the reasons given by Mr. Holmes and Dr. Bristowe, for condemning Queen Anne's Quarter of Greenwich Hospital.

VACCINATION.

SIR.—As a Registrar of Births and Deaths for the last fourteen years, I—and I have no doubt many of my brother registrars—feel surprised at the letter of CH. PAROCH in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of May 18th; and I shall feel much obliged by your inserting, that I believe it is the practice in all unions, on the Registrar presenting his account for the registration of cases of successful vaccination, to deposit with the Superintendent-Registrar the certificates given by the vaccinator. If this is not done, these must be neglected on the part of the Superintendent-Registrar in not requiring them. I am, etc., W. MOORE,

Registrar of Births and Deaths, Dartford Union.
Swan Cottage, Grayford, May 1867.

DR. G. ROWLES, Rathmines.—The communication is very interesting; but treads upon too dangerous ground. It might open up a theological controversy.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements should be forwarded direct to the Printing Office, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, addressed to Mr. Richards, not later than Thursday, ten o'clock.

SIR HENRY COOPER.—At your own convenience.

THE ABUSE OF HOSPITALS.

SIR.—Having seen a letter on the above subject, in the JOURNAL of April 13th, I venture to send you my experience, in the hope that it may tend in some small degree to direct further attention to the evil.

During my period of clinical clerkship, I happened to meet with three cases where well-to-do tradesmen were admitted as in-patients into the hospital, besides those of others, in a similar position of life, to whom, as out-patients, advice and medicine were constantly given.

At present, also, I know of several cases in my own neighbourhood, where thriving men of business are similarly imposing on public charity. We can point out the evil; but can nothing be done in the way of remedy? Almost daily we see advertisements in the papers asking for aid, and yet our hospitals are all the while so improvident as to squander their funds on persons who can and ought therefore to be made to pay.

I would suggest to governors the necessity of appointing some person to take the address and occupation of all applicants, and to see, as far as practicable, that their statements are true. Of course, this need not apply to accidents.

Then, again, the hospital staff could do much towards protecting their poorer brethren in the profession, who, of course, are indirectly injured by these practices.

April 16th, 1867. I am, etc., PHYSICIAN.

MR. BRYANT.—When ready, we shall be happy to receive them.

PROTECTION OF ILLEGAL PRACTICE.

SIR.—Will you kindly advise the best course to be taken under the following circumstances? There are in this town several unqualified men practising medicine, surgery, and midwifery. The course adopted is to get the protection of a qualified man, for which a certain sum is paid. A house is taken in a populous locality; the name is painted on the door; and the word "Surgery" on either a side door or over the bell. No title is affirmed; but in case of death, on a club-certificate being required, he affixes his own name, generally with that of his protectors (but not always). One surgeon has admitted the fact of allowing his name to be used, and being paid for it; and says he "may as well do so, for if he does not, some one else will." A representation of this conduct was made to the College of which he is a member, but no notice whatever was taken of it.

Is there no remedy for this state of things? One of the individuals in question was, I am informed, very lately a leather-cutter; another has obtained a herbalist diploma from a celebrated quack. Would a letter, signed by several qualified men, addressed to the Medical Council, do any good?

Birmingham, May 1867. I am, etc., ASSOCIATE.

MR. FENWICK HELE'S (Suffolk) letter has been forwarded to the Secretary of the Committee.

STUDENT (St. Bartholomew's).—The term "acting" is applied to every assistant-surgeon on his entry into the service, and lasts for one year; after which, he is confirmed to the rank. During that year, he may be sent about his business, without court-martial or any formality, if he happen not to be in all respects the correct thing. In fact, every medical officer, on entry into the service, must go through his probationary year; so that it is a very old institution. The gentlemen gazetted as acting assistant-surgeons are, therefore, regularly qualified and registered medical men according to the Act; and, excepting in the prefix to their title, they are in all respects identical with assistant-surgeons properly so called.

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.

ERRORS OF THE PRESS.

OBSTETRICUS.—The "new anæsthetic" is a discovery of the same order as the "gargarines" of the *Lancet*, which our learned contemporary took to be young lica. The "tetrachloride of carbon" was introduced by Sir James Y. Simpson in 1865. It is classified and described by Dr. Ernest Sansom, in his well known *Handbook of Anæsthetics*, in 1865, p. 39, and more fully in a paper read before the Obstetrical Society last session, and reported in the *JOURNAL*, and since reprinted in the annual volume of *Transactions*. It must have required some courage or a good deal of determined ignorance to announce this as a new discovery in May 1867. A correspondent, who calls our attention to the subject, suggests that our contemporary should label its next discovery "a real novelty," if it really means it, or, at any rate, should supply some masonic sign by which its readers could know what novelties were manufactured for public consumption, and what were intended for medical digestion.

DR. BUDD.—We are unable to find the report at this moment; but Mr. Liddle, Medical Officer of Health, will, we feel sure, have pleasure in forwarding a copy on application.

E. C. asks where he can find an account of the principal researches into the use and action of digitalis.

A THERAPEUTICAL SOCIETY.

SIR,—In a letter to the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* some months ago, I ventured to suggest that the formation of a Therapeutical Society would prove of great advantage to the profession.

Only recently I noticed in the *JOURNAL* that one had been established in Paris. The advantage that would result from the operations of such a society in London, are, I think, numerous. At its meetings, the different modes of treating disease, and the comparative merits of the various remedies in use, could be discussed—a proceeding which would elicit the valuable experience of many practical men, who, from want of time or inclination, never avail themselves of the press as a means of communicating such experience.

A portion of the funds of the Society could also be advantageously applied to the experimental determination of the action of medicinal agents on the lower animals. A course of experiments in this direction, conducted by competent men, could not fail to be fraught with most valuable results.

As observing men, we cannot but acknowledge that there is much diversity of opinion even as to the principles that should guide us in the application of our remedies, and much more as to the particular remedies to be selected in any given case—an evil which must be deplored, not only on account of the unfavourable results in practice which flow from it, but also because it goes far to produce the impression, that all medication is of equal value, and not of greater value than no medication at all.

Nobody, I suppose, will deny that our means of healing disease are not at all commensurate with our knowledge of the intimate structural changes which constitute it. Yet it is not very long since pathology and obstetrics were much in the same confused state that marks therapeutics at present. And to what is our present advanced knowledge of these subjects due but the great attention they have received from the members of these societies specially formed for the promotion of their study?

And may we not hope that, as our knowledge of the actions of remedies would probably be advanced by the labours of a society devoted to the elucidation of this matter, so in like proportion would our treatment become more definite, and more in accordance with scientific principles than it can be said to be at present?

Such a society might embrace among its members chemists and veterinarians, as well as those of our own profession.

I am, etc.,
THOS. LANGSTON, L.R.C.P. Edin. (exam.)
Broadway, Westminster, May 1867.

DR. E. SYMES THOMPSON.—We are unable to give the information desired. It can be obtained at the Colonial Office.

AN IRISH MEMBER calls our attention to the following advertisement, which has been appearing for some time in the Belfast papers; and we ask for it the consideration of the Colleges of which Dr. Lewis is a member.

"*Medical Notice.*—Dr. Lewis, of Cavendish Square, London, may be consulted, until further notice, at 20, College Square North, Belfast, in all cases of nervous and physical debility, trembling of the hands, depression of spirits, loss of memory, etc. Patients, whose cases have been unskillfully treated or neglected, are invited to pay Dr. L. a visit, as he is the only qualified medical man who for 20 years has made the treatment of those disorders his special study.

"Consultations by letter attended to.

"Hours at home.—From Ten till Three, and Five to Nine. Sundays, Twelve till One only.

"20, College Square North, Belfast."

MR. TERRY, JUN. (Northampton).—A title-page and cover for the half-year will be furnished as usual, so as to make a complete volume up to the end of June.

WIGHT v. FIELD.

THE following subscriptions have been further received.

Amount previously announced	234	8	6
Dr. Abud	0	10	6
James Bacon, Esq.	5	5	0
J. H. Bryant, Esq.	1	1	0
J. H. Briggs, Esq.	5	0	0
Dr. Hy. Bennet, Mentone	1	1	0
G. A. Calder, Esq.	3	3	0
H. Curling, Esq., Ramsgate	1	1	0
John Forster, Esq.	3	3	0
W. Gregg, Esq., Ramsgate	0	10	6
Dr. Henderson, Ramsgate	0	10	6
Dr. F. Hulke, Deal	1	1	0
T. Hunt, Esq.	1	1	0
Dr. J. H. Jackson	1	1	0
Samuel Lane, Esq.	1	1	0
John Marshall, Esq.	1	1	0
W. G. Marshall, Esq., Colney Hatch	1	1	0
James Purdy, Esq.	10	10	0
J. Rushforth, Esq.	1	1	0
Dr. B. Rogers	1	1	0
J. P. Stocker, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. Wilkinson	5	0	0
J. B. Walker, Esq.	1	1	0
F. E. Webb, Esq.	1	1	0

Further subscriptions will be received by the Treasurer, Dr. J. C. Langmore, 12, Sussex Gardens, W.

The list will be closed the end of next month.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, &c., have been received from:—

Dr. Playfair; Mr. Thos. Bryant; Mr. A. T. Franks, Berlin; The Secretary of the County and City of Cork Medico-Chirurgical Society; Dr. Fraser; Dr. J. G. Swayne, Clifton, Bristol (with enclosure); The Honorary Secretary of the Western Medical and Surgical Society of London; Mr. A. B. Steele, Liverpool (with enclosure); Dr. Shannon, Magherafelt, Ireland; Dr. Wm. Budd, Bristol; Mr. B. E. Brodhurst; Dr. Charles Armstrong (with enclosure); Mr. Simon; Mr. St. George Mivart; Sir Henry Cooper, Hull; Dr. Lankester; Dr. Marçet; Dr. Symes Thompson; Dr. Broadbent; Dr. Althaus; The Honorary Secretary of the Obstetrical Society; Mr. William Copney; Mr. J. L. Minshull; Dr. V. C. Damazio, Bahia; Dr. Crawford, Army Medical Department; Mr. J. Cooper Forster; Mr. Bywater; Mr. Terry, jun., Northampton; Mr. T. M. Stone; Dr. R. P. Cotton (with enclosure); Mr. David Chadwick; The Honorary Secretary of the Epidemiological Society; Dr. J. Birkbeck Nevins, Liverpool (with enclosure); Mr. J. N. Radcliffe; Rev. J. Alton Hatchard, Hastings (with enclosure); The Registrar-General of England; Dr. Whitehead, Manchester (with enclosure); Dr. Septimus Gibbon (with enclosure); Dr. H. M'Cormac, Belfast; Quekett Microscopical Club; Dr. S. B. Birch (with enclosure); Mr. Edward Crossman, Hambrook, near Bristol; Dr. A. Samelson, Manchester (with enclosure); Dr. Henry Simpson, Manchester; The Registrar of the Medical Council; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. T. H. Bartlett, Birmingham; Mr. J. F. Holden, Hull (with enclosure); Mr. Morgan, Lichfield; Dr. Langmore; Mr. C. J. Fox; Dr. Dyce Duckworth; and Mr. R. Gardiner Hill.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

On Diseases of the Lungs and Air-Passages. By Henry William Fuller, M.D. Cantab. Second edition. London: 1867.
On the Progress of Elementary Education. By William Sargent. London: 1867.
The Management of Workhouses. By Samuel W. North, M.R.C.S. London: 1867.
Supplement to Dr. R. E. Scoresby-Jackson's Note-Book of Materia Medica, containing the Alterations and New Preparations introduced into the "British Pharmacopœia" of 1867. By Angus Macdonald, M.A., M.D. Edinburgh and London: 1867.
Diseases of the Skin. By Balmanno Squire, M.B., F.L.S. London: 1867.
On the Treatment of Consumption, with Notices of Successful and Unsuccessful Cases. By Charles Thomason Thompson, M.D. Second edition. London: 1867.

The Hastings and St. Leonards News, May 24th.

The Bury Observer.

The Laboratory, May 25th.

The Sunday Gazette, May 26th.

The Chronicle, May 25th.

The Manchester Guardian, May 21st.