

THE POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

METROPOLITAN POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION.

A QUARTERLY meeting of the above Association will be held at the Ship Hotel, Charing Cross, on Friday, the 31st inst., at 7.30 P.M., when various subjects of interest to Poor-law medical officers will be brought forward for discussion. Among them, the provision of medicines, etc., by the Guardians, under the Metropolitan Poor Act of 1867; the appointment of dispensers to workhouse infirmaries; and special dietaries for all classes of workhouse inmates. Reference will also be made to the large amount of "desk" work imposed upon medical officers, and a remedy suggested. Important correspondence with the Poor-law Board will be laid before the meeting. Medical officers who have not joined the Association, and all persons interested in the welfare of the sick poor and of the medical services, are earnestly invited to attend.

* * * It is to be regretted that the time fixed collides with the weekly appointment for the Clinical Society of London, as this will probably prevent the attendance of many honorary members who take an interest in all that helps to elevate the status of the Poor-law Medical Service.

CLIFTON UNION INFIRMARY.

WE have before us reports from a Bristol paper of some interest: the one refers to a fever hospital, which is in contemplation in the town, and is, I think, important; for at the present time there is no hospital in Bristol for the reception of persons ill from contagious diseases. The Guardians of the Bristol Union have accommodation at their workhouse for fever patients, and are now going to build a proper detached infirmary for contagious cases. But there is no accommodation at all for such cases, either at Clifton or Bedminster workhouses; and although the subject has been brought prominently before the Clifton Guardians during the last few years, they have systematically refused to pay proper attention to it. You will see from the newspaper paragraph the local board of health have written to the Guardians, requesting to know what steps, if any, they were going to take in the matter, and this step is characterised by the Guardians "as impudent". The Board of Health have written this letter because fever persistently exists, and often spreads, in the low districts of the Clifton Union; there being no place to remove infecting cases to. And also, during the last three years, the Clifton guardians have lost, in the same district, two of their medical officers from typhus fever. The letter written by the Board of Health to the Board of Guardians, and described by them as "impudent", was an exceedingly polite one; and we are informed that typhus fever has lately been imported into the Clifton Union, and is beginning to spread, there being no place to which to remove those attacked.

The other paragraph includes a refusal of the Poor-law Board to sanction the purchase of medical fittings for the Infirmary, and is interesting, as showing that the Poor-law Board are inclined to oppose the guardians when they suggest things for improving the treatment of the sick. The Board considers four water-beds too many in a large workhouse like Clifton; that, if restraint is necessary in any case, instead of using straps for the purpose, in their opinion a "strait jacket" is quite good enough; that two portable boilers, with tubes for steaming sick persons (*i.e.*, bronchitis, etc.) requiring such treatment, are "unusual" apparatus in workhouses (the Poor-law Board ought to have learned that many good things are "unusual" in workhouses); that a common sulphur stove is efficient enough for disinfecting beds, linen, etc.; and that a hot-air apparatus ought not to be purchased. These facts seem to show that the Poor-law Board do not know the requirements of a workhouse infirmary, or that their adviser is possessed of unfortunate crotchetts.

WORKHOUSE NURSING.—The jury empanelled to ascertain the cause of the death of the child of Ruth Bannister, said to have been scalded to death by an idiot nurse named Dawber in the infant ward of the Wigan workhouse, have returned the following verdict:—"That the deceased died in consequence of being negligently and carelessly scalded whilst being nursed by Catherine Dawber; that the jury think that the nursing in the infant ward is very deficient, and most unsatisfactory, and the food unsuitable; and, in their opinion, there ought to be some responsible person in charge of the ward."

OBITUARY.

ROBERT BEITH, M.D., DEPUTY-INSPECTOR-GENERAL R.N.

WE learn with deep regret the sudden and untimely death of Dr. Robert Beith, Deputy-Inspector-General of the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth. He was in the prime of middle life, with fine prospects of early advancement. His reputation as a surgeon, and as an officer, was unsurpassed in the service. He served as senior surgeon of the *Belleisle* Hospital ship during the Russian war, and soon afterwards obtained his promotion to the rank of Deputy-Inspector-General, being appointed to the Plymouth Hospital in consideration of his high reputation as an operating surgeon. His interest was deepest in purely professional work, of which he had more than enough to occupy his time. His death leaves a vacancy in Her Majesty's service which there will be some difficulty in filling with an officer of equal ability and repute.

Dr. Beith was apparently in excellent health, and was shooting on a moor the day before his death. While sitting at dinner, he complained suddenly of pain about the region of the heart. There was gradual failure of the heart's action; the breathing became oppressed; his consciousness remained clear to the last; and he expired in the night. He leaves a widow and four young children to deplore his loss.

MEDICAL NEWS.

THE PROVINCIAL WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES.

DR. EDWARD SMITH'S report to the Poor-law Board on the inefficiency of the existing arrangements for the care and treatment of the sick poor in 48 provincial workhouses in England and Wales, was issued on Wednesday, and may be obtained at Hansard's. The price is one shilling and eightpence.

The report is laborious, and marked by Dr. Edward Smith's peculiar ability in detail. It utterly fails, however, to present anything like a life-like picture of any one interior. Dr. Smith sees always walls and ventilators, and never people and their condition. In this report on the care and treatment of the sick, there is nothing from which the most vivid imagination, or the most piercing intelligence, can devise a picture of that treatment. Dr. Smith sees chiefly walls, ventilators, and diets. It is essentially *un*human—not inhuman. In diets and ventilators nothing escapes his notice, even to recommending "vinegar with the dip," and "allspice with the rice". The reports of the inspectors will afford room for curious comment; one gentleman, finding absolutely no fault with a house which appears to have many, and taxing his brain to fill up the blank space which requires suggestions or additional information to the Poor-law Board, finds nothing else to say than that a case of cattle-plague has occurred that month in the union. We cannot find space this week to use our notes on this report. We recommend it to the perusal of medical officers, and shall be glad to receive their comments.

VITAL STATISTICS OF DUBLIN.—The Irish Registrar-General has just issued his yearly summary of vital statistics of the city of Dublin for the year 1867. The number of deaths registered in that year in the city and suburbs was 8,607, being in the proportion of 27 per 1,000 of population. The epidemic and contagious class of diseases proved fatal to 1,909 persons, or 1 in 4.5 of the total deaths. Measles was the most fatal epidemic, causing 405 deaths, or 1 in 21 of the total deaths. In 1866 only 54 deaths were referred to measles. Next to measles, fever was the most fatal epidemic, causing 359 deaths, against 537 in 1866. Diarrhoea caused 320 deaths, scarlatina 259, and whooping-cough 178 deaths. Of the deaths registered from constitutional diseases, 1,049, or 1 in 8.2, of the total deaths were ascribed to consumption. Of the deaths from local diseases no less than 1,664 were caused by diseases of the respiratory organs. Of 164 violent deaths, 36 were caused by burns and scalds, 47 by drowning, and seven by suffocation. Seven deaths were referred to homicide, and 12 deaths were registered from suicide. The number of deaths registered in each quarter of the year 1867, respectively, was 2,752, 2,173, 1,810, and 1,872. Of the 8,607 deaths, 2,709, or 31 per cent., occurred in public institutions—viz., 1,214 in hospitals, prisons, and lunatic asylums, and 1,495 in workhouses. The abstract of the ages shows that 2,800, or 32.5 per cent., of the deaths occurred among children under five years of age, and 440, or 5.1 per cent., were those of children aged five and under ten years of age. The number of births registered during the year 1867 in the city of Dublin was 8,241, or 26 per 1,000 of population. The mean temperature of the year 1867 was 49 deg.

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 January 21st:—

Blue, Wm. A. S., Strathalbyn, South Australia (St. Bartholomew's)
 Bradford, Robert Mark, Exeter (St. Bartholomew's)
 Cass, Henry, St. George's Road, Pimlico (University College)
 Chapman, Henry Thomas Hugh, Lower Seymour Street (St. George's)
 Dawson, Frederick Adams, M.B. Aberdeen, British Guiana (St. George's)
 Gill, Henry Clifford, L.S.A., Kentish Town (University College)
 Hall, Richard Strange, L.S.A., Leigh, near Manchester (Manchester School)
 Jackson, Edward, Darlington (St. George's)
 Keagey, David, M.D. Victoria College, Toronto, & L.R.C.P. Lond., Dundas, Ontario, Canada (Toronto and St. Thomas's)
 Le Denne, Thomas Vincent, Stotfold, Beds (St. Thomas's)
 Littleton, Philip Richard, Plymouth (St. Bartholomew's)
 Lloyd, John, L.S.A., Abergwili, Carmarthen (University College)
 Lucas, Richard Clement, Compton, near Petersfield, Hants (Guy's)
 Lyne, Henry, Plymouth (Guy's)
 McKay, Hugh Munro, M.D. Victoria College, Toronto, Woodstock, Ontario, Canada (Toronto and St. Thomas's)
 McLarty, Duncan, M.D. Victoria College, Toronto, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada (Toronto and St. Thomas's)
 Marshall, Frederick, L.S.A., Kentish Town (King's College)
 Morris, David Edward, Plymouth (St. Bartholomew's)
 Parr, George Charles, Cambridge Street, S.W. (St. George's)
 Prior, Richard Henry, L.S.A., Chichester (King's College)
 Renshaw, Bernard, Lee, Kent (St. Bartholomew's)

Out of the twenty-four candidates examined on this evening, only *three* failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Court, and were consequently referred to their hospital studies for six months.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, January 16th, 1868.

Bailey, William Edward, Longfleet, Poole, Dorset
 Parkinson, Edmund Wollaston, Shere, Guildford
 Seccombe, Charles Hepburne, 29, Cedars Road, Clapham

At the same Court, the following passed the first examination:—
 Ticehurst, Augustus Rowland, Guy's Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are declared:—

BANTRY UNION, co. Cork—Medical Officer for the Durrus and Kilchrohane Dispensary District.
 CARRICK-ON-SHANNON UNION, co. Leitrim—Medical Officer for the Aughrim Dispensary District.
 CASHEL UNION, co. Tipperary—Medical Officer for the Killenaule Dispensary District.
 DUBLIN MEATH HOSPITAL and co. DUBLIN INFIRMARY—Resident Apothecary.
 GLASGOW—House-Surgeon to the Poor-House at Barnhill, and Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum.
 GLIN UNION, co. Limerick—Medical Officer to the Workhouse, and Second Medical Officer for part of the Tarbert Dispensary District.
 HARROGATE BATH HOSPITAL—Medical Officer.
 INFIRMARY FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Margaret Street, Cavendish Square—Visiting Physician.
 ISLINGTON DISPENSARY—Surgeon.
 KILKEEL UNION, co. Down—Apothecary to Kilkeel Dispensary.
 MANCHESTER—Officer of Health.
 MANCHESTER ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon and Secretary.
 NOTTINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY—Surgeon.
 ROYAL SOUTH LONDON DISPENSARY—District Surgeon to visit Out-patients in Lambeth District.
 ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL—Assistant-Physician.
 ST. GEORGE'S DISPENSARY, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square—Physician-Accoucheur.
 STOW UNION, Suffolk—Medical Officer for District No. 6.
 WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Hammersmith—Assistant-Physician.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

BASTIAN, H. Charlton, M.D., elected Assistant-Physician to the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic.
 BRUNTON, John, M.D., appointed Certifying Factory Surgeon for the Districts of Pentonville, Islington, Highbury, Holloway, Hoxton, Balspond, Newington, and Kingsland Road.
 LAVIES, Joseph, M.D., elected Surgeon to the Westminster House of Correction.
 ROYAL NAVY.
 ANDERSON, William, Esq. (6), Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Ganges*, for the *Liberty*.
 DILLON, W. E., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Fisgard*.
 FULTON, T., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Royal Adelaide*.
 IRELAND, Arthur J., M.D., Surgeon (additional), to the *Royal George*.
 LAWRENCE, Richard C. P., Esq., Surgeon (additional), to the *Royal Alfred*, in lieu of an Assistant-Surgeon.
 MOLLOY, Gerald, Esq., Surgeon, to the *Blanche*.
 MORGAN, Frederick F., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Defence*.
 SLAUGHTER, C. H., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Royalist*.
 VOLUNTEERS.—(A.V., Artillery Volunteers; R.V., Rifle Volunteers.)
 HAY, A., M.D., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon and Dumbartonshire R.V.
 KENNEDY, J. B., Esq., to be Surgeon 3rd Essex A.V.

BIRTHS.

GANGE.—On January 17th, at Faversham, the wife of Frederick A. Gange, M.D., of a son.
 GIBBES.—On January 14th, at Alverton House, South Penge Park, the wife of Frank Gibbes, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
 HARLAND.—On January 10th, at Mayfield, Sussex, the wife of Henry Harland, M.D., of a son.
 SMITH.—On January 12th, at Great Hadham, Herts, the wife of F. M. Smith, M.D., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

HEWLETT, Arthur R., Esq., Consular Service, China, son of Thomas Hewlett, Esq., Surgeon, Harrow, to Rose, fourth daughter of Richard G. WHITFIELD, Esq., Resident Medical Officer of St. Thomas's Hospital, Newington, Surrey.
 KING, Thomas Wm., M.D., of Camberwell, to Sophia, second daughter of John H. WALTON, Esq., of Peckham Rye, at Camden Church, Camberwell, on Jan. 15.

DEATHS.

BEITH, Robert, M.D., Deputy Inspector-General R.N., at the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth, on January 22nd.
 BENT.—On January 8th, at Derby, Maria, youngest daughter of the late James Bent, M.D., of Basford, Staffordshire.
 DVER, William G. Thiselton, M.D., at 7, Berkeley Street, aged 55, on January 13.
 IRVINE.—On January 12th, at Portsmouth, aged 69, Anne Catherine, widow of Samuel Irvine, M.D.
 LOMAS, Robert, Esq., Surgeon, at Richmond, Surrey, aged 80, on January 11.
 STOOKES, Alexander R., M.D., at Rodney Street, Liverpool, on January 15.
 TRAQUAIR, T. G., M.D., of Eccleston Square, at Hyères, France, on January 6.
 TURNOUR.—On December 28th, 1867, at Denbigh, Frances Helen, wife of Arthur E. Turnour, M.D.
 TWEEDDALE.—On January 5th, at Cambridge Street, Hyde Park, aged 80, Margaret Dunbar, widow of James Tweeddale, M.D., Surgeon R.N.
 WARD.—On January 2nd, at Markham Square, Chelsea, aged 53, Ann, wife of Martindale Ward, Esq.
 WRIGHT, William, Esq., Surgeon, at Nottingham, aged 74, on January 7.

DONATION.—The Marquis of Westminster has, within the past few days, given £2,000 to the funds of the Denbighshire Infirmary. Not long ago his lordship gave £500 to the same charity.

GRAND Christmas Tree and annual distribution of prizes to the sick (the seventh annual treat of the kind) enlivened last week the wards of University College Hospital.

DR. LAVIES has been unanimously elected Surgeon to the Middlesex House of Correction: a position long held by his father, and of which he has already for some time ably fulfilled the duties.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.—The Professor of Anatomy gives notice that his course of lectures will be continued on Tuesday, January 28th, at 1 P.M., at the New Museums, and on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at the same hour. These lectures are intended for students of natural science, and students preparing for the special examination for B.A., as well as for medical students. The anatomical demonstrations will be continued by the Professor and Demonstrator of Anatomy on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 6 P.M., in the old Anatomical School, commencing on the 29th. The demonstrations of minute anatomy will be continued by the Professor on alternate Mondays, at 7 P.M., in the old Anatomical Museum, commencing on Monday, February 3rd, and the instruction in minute anatomy will also be continued by Mr. Gedge on Saturdays at 11 A.M.

A MEDICAL MISSION AT DELHI.—The *Delhi Gazette* states that a medical mission has been set on foot in Delhi, expressly intended to work among the female population, with the double object of alleviating physical suffering, and bringing a knowledge of Christianity to the women in their own homes. A lady well qualified for the work by reason of previous experience in India, and a regular training for the work in England, has been engaged and brought out, and is now at Delhi making better progress than was anticipated. The main practical objects are three: attending ladies in the zenana, superintending a dispensary for women, and training native women as nurses. There are a great number of respectable but destitute women in Delhi, for whom an honest livelihood can thus be provided.

FAREWELL ADDRESS TO SURGEON-MAJOR DAVID WYLLIE, M.D.—A numerously-attended and influential meeting of the inhabitants of Ahmedabad was held at the Hemabhai Institute on December 9, for the purpose of presenting a valedictory address to David Wyllie, M.D., civil surgeon, on his departure from Ahmedabad for Abyssinia. Sett Mayabhai rose and briefly addressed the assembly, explaining the object of the meeting, and called upon Sett Bechurdass Ambaeedas to read the address, which, together with a handsome and costly ring, was then presented to Dr. Wyllie amidst loud acclamations. Dr. Wyllie returned thanks. Dr. Wyllie then presented a few of his subordinates—as tokens of his approval of their conduct—with some souvenirs. Accordinging to the oriental custom, nosegays, rosewater, and pan-soparee were distributed, and the meeting separated.

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, 1.30 P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

WEDNESDAY .. St. Mary's, 1.15 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.—Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, 2.30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.

THURSDAY ... St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 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 Demonstrations and Operations), 1 P.M.—Royal Free, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

EXPECTED OPERATIONS AT THE HOSPITALS.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, Wednesday, January 29th. Four Cases of Lithotomy.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.—Medical Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. George Buchanan, Second Lettsomian Lecture, "Bronchitis and Emphysema in Children."—Entomological Society.

TUESDAY.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Thomas Bryant, "Colotomy in a Case of Vesico-Intestinal Fistula"; Mr. Curgenven, "On Infantile Remittent Fever."

THURSDAY.—Royal Society.

FRIDAY.—Clinical Society. Order of communications:—Ulcer of Cornea; Rheumatic Fever; Femoral Aneurism; Intermittent Haematuria; Renal Abscess; Fibrous Phthisis.—Royal Institute.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All Letters and Communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered are requested to look to the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

CORRESPONDENTS, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course, not necessarily for publication.

AUTHORS OF PAPERS, desirous of having extra copies printed for their own use, are requested to communicate with the printer, Mr. Richards, 37, Great Queen Street.

SUPPLY OF THE JOURNAL TO NEW MEMBERS.—The Secretaries of the Branches, and other members who take an interest in the increase of the Association, will greatly aid the economical working of the financial department if they will kindly send at once to the General Secretary the names of intending new members.

MR. LANGSTON PARKER (Birmingham).—With pleasure.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest:—The Leeds Mercury; The Yorkshire Post, January 16th; The Western Flying Post; Pulman's Weekly News and Advertiser, January 7th and 14th; The Belfast News-Letter, January 17th; The Torquay Times, January 18th; The Harrogate Herald, January 22nd.

SMALL-POX AT THE LOCK HOSPITAL.

With reference to a "dreadful outbreak of small-pox at the Lock Hospital", which has been announced in some newspapers, we may state the following as the actual facts. Early last week, one of the Woolwich patients showed symptoms of small-pox two or three days after her admission. The house-surgeon, Mr. Barr, immediately sent for Dr. Sieveking, who confirmed his opinion as to the fact of the complaint being small-pox. She was, therefore, removed to the Small-pox Hospital at once. This woman came from a house in which there had been recently small-pox. Next morning, a careful inspection of all the patients was made by Mr. Barr, who found two others with apparent small-pox. These were also sent to the Small-pox Hospital, and admitted there. These patients had only been in the hospital a very few days; they came from Woolwich, where they lived either in the same street, or in close proximity to the first patient seized. No more cases have occurred, and nine days have now elapsed.

ERRATUM.—The case of aneurism detailed in the JOURNAL of January 11th, page 29, was under the care of Mr. Samuel Lane, and not of Mr. James Lane, as stated by mistake.

MR. JOHN MUTER (London).—The first letter was duly received. Its publication has been delayed by the great pressure on our space; but the letter, which relates to a vital sanitary question, on which Mr. Muter is a recognised authority, shall have early insertion.

MR. SEDGWICK's interesting paper on the Mammary Secretion in Cholera shall have early insertion.

DISTRESSING CASE.

MR. PADMORE, a M.R.C.S.E., 1828, practised for about twenty-four years at St. Helier's, in Jersey. He was a widower, and died three months ago, leaving three children entirely destitute, and with no relatives in a position to assist them.

The eldest, a son, 25 years old, is deaf and dumb, and paralysed. The second is a daughter, aged 18; and the third, a boy, aged 5 years. It is hoped that the deaf and dumb son may be got into an asylum; that the daughter may be started in some respectable business; and that the youngest boy be admitted into the Medical Benevolent College. But, in the meanwhile, money is urgently needed for the support of the family, and to enable the daughter to maintain herself. Contributions are therefore earnestly solicited, which will be thankfully received and forwarded by John E. Erichsen, Esq., 6, Cavendish Place, London; and by the Editor of this JOURNAL, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C.

J. E. Erichsen, Esq. (London)	3	3	0
Dr. Monroe	1	1	0
Ernest Hart, Esq. (London)	1	1	0
Thomas Page, Esq. (Leicester)	3	3	0
E. J. A. (East Retford), per BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL	1	1	0
D. M. B. (St. Bartholomew's), per BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL	1	1	0
S. W. W.	1	1	0
Dr. Pennington (Liverpool)	1	0	0
Joseph Bell, Esq. (Edinburgh), per BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL	1	1	0
Dr. Tanner (London), per BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL	1	1	0
W. Michell Clarke, Esq. (Clifton), per BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL	1	1	0
A Friend (Tenbury)	1	1	0
T. Langston, Esq., per BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL	0	10	0
Postage stamps	0	3	0

NOTICES of Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Appointments, intended for insertion in the JOURNAL, should arrive at the Office not later than 10 A.M. on Thursday.

THE STATHAM TESTIMONIAL FUND.—We have been requested to state that Mr. C. J. Fox, late Honorary Secretary to the Statham Defence Fund, has been confined to his bed for three weeks with a severe attack of rheumatic fever, and is therefore quite unable to act any further in the matter.

THE WATER-CHOLERA THEORY.

Sir,—The extract from Dr. Letheby's Report on the Sanitary History of London, which appears in your number for January 11th under the above heading, is so directly opposed to the theory of the diffusion of cholera by means of drinking-water, that I am induced to trouble you with a few remarks on the subject.

Every one who has perused the remarkable Blue-Book lately published, entitled "The Ninth Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council", must be struck with the extraordinary assiduity displayed in the collection of evidence; the minuteness of detail with which the information so obtained is tabulated; the singular coincidence existing between the testimony of a great number of witnesses *totally independent* of each other; and, above all, the judicious manner in which the evidence is summed up and brought to bear upon the origin of the cholera outbreak of 1866. We there learn, first, that the outbreak was principally confined to a particular district; viz., the East-end of London. To prove this, we are told that whilst the total mortality from cholera in the metropolis was 5,015, the Eastern District contributed the large proportion of 4,276 towards it: being five times more than the Southern, nine times more than the Northern, eleven times more than the Central, and *twenty-four times* more than the Western Districts. At page 300, we read: "The explosion, in fact, was confined to an area supplied with water by one particular company, and from one particular source"; and further on, at page 332: "It is known that immediately prior to the outbreak in the Eastern District of the metropolis, impure water was distributed over this field of supply"—the increased mortality of the district so supplied amounting in the ensuing week to a number *nearly seven times as great as that of all the rest of London put together*.

Step by step the connection thus established between an impure water-supply and the attack of cholera is followed up; and examples are brought forward, which to any ordinary person, would appear to furnish proof of this connection absolutely irresistible. Take, for instance, the case of East Ham. Of the 178 cholera deaths which took place there, 169 occurred in houses supplied with water from the Old Ford reservoir; and again, in Whitechapel, out of every 1000 of the population supplied with the Old Ford water, 7 died; whilst of every 1000 who derived their water from other sources, only 3 died.

So overwhelming, indeed, is the force of the evidence supplied from various sources, that the medical officer is driven to the following conclusion in summing up his report:—"Neither the meteorology of the period, nor altitude, nor the nature of the soil, nor density of population, nor filth, nor the state of the sewerage, nor locality, affords any explanation of the peculiar localisation of the outbreak in the Eastern Districts. There is *but one condition* known which might become capable of propagating cholera, common to the whole area of the outbreak; viz., the water-supply."

Yet, in the face of this powerful array of facts, and to get rid of so great an accumulation of testimony, what does Dr. Letheby bring forward? A few negative statements, which simply amount to this. First, that there is no *direct* proof of the existence of choleraic poison in the water; and next, that many persons living in the same district, and using the same water, nevertheless escaped the disease.

It is true that, when the water of the reservoir was submitted to analysis by Dr. Letheby and Professor Frankland, the latter reported that "although on the 1st of July the quantity of organic matter in it was markedly above the average, it did not reveal any exceptional degree of pollution in the water." But will Dr. Letheby be bold enough to assert, that no "exceptional degree of pollution" might exist in the water without his being able to discover it?

The more the subject of the impurities in water is investigated, the more is the conviction forced upon us, that the real cause of the deleterious property of a water must be looked for—not so much in the *quantity* of organic matter contained in it, as in the *condition* in which that organic matter exists in the water; and it would be more dignified on the part of our analytical chemists if they would at once acknowledge that the present state of our chemical knowledge is inadequate to grapple with this difficulty, instead of endeavouring to throw discredit on the labours and researches of others, and ignoring facts, the bearing and scope of which are self-evident.

I am, etc., R. G. BLUNT,
Chemist to the Silicated Carbon Filter Company, Battersea.

NEW MEMBERS.

UPWARDS of two hundred new members have joined the Association from the beginning of the present year; and we believe that a considerable number are in process of election. We shall be much obliged by the lists being forwarded to the General Secretary as early as possible. New members receive the JOURNAL from the beginning of the year; and it is therefore necessary to regulate the number of copies printed, so as to ensure a proper supply. We may take this opportunity of reminding our readers that the subscription dates from the commencement of the year. As this JOURNAL now confessedly occupies the front rank amongst medical periodicals, and is admittedly at least equal in scientific and literary value and interest to any of its weekly contemporaries, there seems every reason to believe that a large accession of members may be expected by making extensively known at this season the fact that the annual subscription—including the professional advantages of membership of the Association and possession of the JOURNAL free by post—is only one guinea annually; that is, *one-third less than the subscription to the other journals of like repute*. At the stage of prosperity which has now been reached, any further considerable accession of members will not only bring the JOURNAL far into the van of medical periodical literature, and so give to it an unquestionable preeminence in circulation and influence, such as the organ of our greatest professional Association ought to possess, but it will place in the hands of the Association that which has always been an object of desire—surplus funds; which may be used for the advancement of medical science and the protection of professional interests throughout the country. We hope that we may be permitted to appeal to our members individually to aid us in this matter, and to remind them that each one who proposes a new member renders a service to the Association; while, by widening the bonds of union and strengthening an organisation which aims at the elevation of the whole body medical, and the support of its best scientific and social interests, he is doing well for the profession at large.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the Statham Fund continue to be received by the following gentlemen, members of the Executive Committee:—Dr. Richardson, F.R.S., 12, Hinde Street, W.; Dr. Cholmley, 40, Russell Square, W.C.; S. Cartwright, Esq., 32, Old Burlington Street, W.; W. A. Harrison, Esq., 10, Keppel Street, W.C.; and Edwin Saunders, Esq., 13a, George Street, Hanover Square, W., Honorary Treasurer.

MR. MOUNTAIN.—You will find some information on the subject in Ryan's *Prostitution in London* and Parent-Duchatelet's *Prostitution in Paris*.

THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.—In reply to inquiries which have been addressed to us as to the action which has been taken by the Association on the subject of the resolution in favour of direct representation of the profession in the Council, we may state that the Committee of Council at its last meeting appointed a Committee to report on the best mode of carrying out such representation. This Committee, which consists of provincial medical men, in active practice, and in different parts of the country, is consulting on the subject, and will, we believe, shortly meet to discuss a scheme for the Committee of Council.

THE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY.—Satisfactory arrangements have been made by the Council to obviate the source of our recent complaint, by furnishing simultaneous MSS. abstracts of the proceedings to the medical journals. We are assured also that the delay of which we had to complain in setting this matter right, was involuntary on the part of the gentleman to whom we referred, as one of the secretaries concerned. We have to express our acknowledgments to the Council, and to Dr. Gervis as their organ.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements should be forwarded direct to the Printing-Office, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C., addressed to Mr. Richards, not later than *Thursday*, twelve o'clock.

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.
SIR.—I notice that in a spirit of fairness you now write in favour of the Medical Department of the Army, after having exposed its grievances during the past few years. There is one thing certain; and that is, that the present Director-General, Dr. Logan, makes it his study to oblige as much as possible the members of the Department. Being a man of most gentlemanly feeling, one is certain of a kind reception; and if he cannot accede to a request at one time, he endeavours to do so at another. A medical officer until recently would rather have given a five-pound note than present himself at the Department. He now goes there for what he wants with a degree of confidence hitherto unknown, and looking on the Director-General as his friend, no matter whether he be a senior officer or a young assistant-surgeon. The Department is in a fair way to recover itself; and the Government may be congratulated on the accession to office of the present Director-General.

I am, etc.,

OLD SOGER.

H. L. (St. John's.)—Socrates considered the indulgence in wine pardonable; and, according to Horace, Cato the Censor had often recourse to its exhilarating virtues.

“Narratur et prisci Catonis
Sæpe mero inculuisse virtus.”

Seneca informs us that even the Roman ladies frequently indulged in these potations. The “Gauphine”, both red and white, deserves all that has been sung in its praise.

COD-LIVER OIL.—It is stated that the following formula removes the disagreeable qualities of cod-liver oil administered internally. To 21 drachms of the oil, add 12 drachms of alcohol and 45 grains of essence of peppermint: mix well together. The proportion of the ingredients may be changed to suit the taste of the patient.

DR. McCULLEN.—There is a statue of the late Sir James McGrigor, by Noble, in the grounds of Chelsea Hospital.

We are compelled by the exigencies of space to omit articles on the Club Question in Birmingham, the Remuneration of the Medical Officers at Harrogate Hospital, the Epidemic at Perling, and other subjects.

PROFESSIONAL REMUNERATION.

SIR.—I have perused with much interest the Sydenham Tariff of Fees, and the remarks thereupon, in your number for Dec. 14th, 1867. Such a table supplies the want, which, I daresay, others besides myself have felt, of a regular scale of fees systematically arranged. This Tariff is evidently intended to suit the requirements of a high-class general practice; but I think that a slight addition would enable it to be adapted to all town and country circumstances.

Permit me to offer a few suggestions, which will, I think, increase its usefulness. Besides the three classes there provided for, I would make two of a lower grade, beginning: rental under £10, £10 and under £25; £25 and under £50; and then the same as the Sydenham. Practically, there are many of the artisan and labouring classes to whom must be charged a lower scale of fees than in the Sydenham Class I. These I provide for in my two extra classes. I would advocate no visit under 2s. 6d.; but for consultation (medicine, of course, included) at the doctor's house many will willingly pay from 1s. to 2s. 6d., who could not afford more, but who are above going to the parish or dispensary. Again, in many parts, the usual midwifery fee (including visits) for a good labour, with quick recovery, is 10s. 6d. among the poorer classes. In country visits, not more than 1s. mileage can well be charged to the poorer classes. Let me distinctly state that I have not the least wish to advocate reduction of the present scale in any class, but rather the contrary.

I think the Sydenham Tariff an excellent one, and most useful. I would suggest a slight alteration in special and late visits—calling all those night visits which are required during the practitioner's usual bed hours, and charging the visits as double—and making another class, where the visit should be charged as one and a half, where attendance is required (a) before 10 A.M. (or the usual time for commencing rounds); (b) after 7 P.M. (at which time the doctor may fairly expect to have his leisure); (c) work required by the patient on Sunday *unnecessarily*, as well as (d) such cases mentioned under the head of *special visits* in the Sydenham Tariff. When medicine is sent for continually without the patient being visited, an average charge of 2s. 6d., where there has been no visit on the same day, seems fair.

These are some ideas which suggest themselves to me, and on which I have for some time acted; if others will communicate in the JOURNAL on the subject, I feel sure much good will come of it.

Another subject, far more in want of a satisfactory adjustment, is the whole system of gratuitous, parish, dispensary, and club medical services; but this I leave to an abler pen than mine.

December 1867.

I am, etc.

A YOUNG PRACTITIONER.

JUNIUS.—You will be able to commence your professional studies at once.

SEVERAL of our American Exchanges occasionally reach this office underpaid, involving a heavy postal fine upon the Association. We would beg the publishers to kindly attend to this in forwarding exchange journals.

AN APPRENTICE.—You can at once enter on your professional studies at the hospital named, and by so doing save half a session.

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

Mr. Thomas Langston, London (with enclosure); Mr. Morrant Baker, London (with enclosure); Mr. E. L. Hussey, Oxford; Mr. Thornicroft, London (with enclosure); Dr. Hilton Fagge, London (with enclosure); Mr. Leary, Castledarg; The Registrar-General of Ireland (with enclosure); The Registrar-General of England (with enclosure); Mr. T. M. Stone, London (with enclosure); The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall (with enclosure); Dr. H. MacCormac, Belfast; Dr. Laycock, Edinburgh (with enclosure); Dr. G. M. Humphry, Cambridge (with enclosure); Mr. B. Wills Richardson, Dublin; Dr. Collins, Wanstead; Mr. F. Argles (with enclosure); Mr. Joseph Bell, Edinburgh (with enclosure); Mr. De la Garde, Exeter (with enclosure); Mr. Annandale, Edinburgh (with enclosure); D. H. H. Crucknell, London; Dr. James Gwyther, Manchester; Dr. Gervis, London; Mr. Husband, York; Mrs. Fox, London; Mr. Holmes Coote, London; H. B. M.; Student, reader of B. M. J.; Dr. A. J. Barker, Holloway; Dr. H. Harland, Mayfield (with enclosure); Mr. Langston Parker, Birmingham; Dr. Fleming, Birmingham; Mr. Gorham, Vauxhall (with enclosure); Mr. F. W. Parsons, Islip; Mr. John Griffith Lock, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Mr. Salter, Tolleshunt d'Arcy; Mr. Berkeley Hill, London (with enclosure); Dr. George Johnson, London (with enclosure); Mr. W. Sedgwick, London (with enclosure); Dr. Copeman, Norwich (with enclosure); Mr. Callender, London (with enclosure); Dr. Tanner, London (with enclosure); Dr. Lockhart Robertson, Hayward's Heath (with enclosure); Mr. W. H. Spencer, London (with enclosure); Dr. A. Wiltshire, London (with enclosure); Mrs. Jaggar, Tottenham; Mr. Benson Baker, London; Mr. E. Johnson Smith (with enclosure); Dr. Eastlake (with enclosure); Dr. Percy Leslie, Birmingham (with enclosure); Dr. G. C. Dale, Bayswater (with enclosure); Mr. John Muter, Richmond Terrace, London; Mr. J. K. Spender, Bath; Dr. Ernest Sansom, London (with enclosure); Dr. Edwin Lankester, London; Mr. Wyatt, Coldstream Guards, London; Dr. Bastian, London; Mr. F. C. Herrera, London; The Registrar of the Medical Society of London; The Honorary Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London; Mr. Michell Clarke, Clifton (with enclosure); Dr. Pearson, London; Mr. Whitford, London; Mr. Slater, London (with enclosure); Dr. Joseph Rogers, London (with enclosure); Dr. F. T. Roberts, Liverpool (with enclosure); Dr. Kirkman, Melton (with enclosure); Dr. L. W. Sedgwick, London (with enclosure); Mr. Sampson Gamgee, Birmingham; Dr. Gimson, Witham; Dr. Milner Barry, Tunbridge Wells; and Dr. Diplock, London.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Second Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of Merthyr Tydfil. By T. J. Dyke.

Merthyr Tydfil: 1867.

Transactions of the Odontological Society of Great Britain, 1865-7.