

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE next meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Midland Institute, Birmingham, on Thursday, February 13th, 1868, at 3 P.M.
T. H. BARTLEST, *Hon. Secretary.*

NORTH WALES BRANCH.

THE next intermediate general meeting of this Branch will be held on Tuesday, March 3rd, at 1 P.M., at the Lion Hotel, Ruthin; under the presidency of T. Eytton Jones, Esq.

Gentlemen who intend to read papers or cases, and to dine at the close of the meeting, are requested to communicate at their earliest convenience with the Honorary Secretary.

Dinner at 4 P.M. Tickets 5s. each, exclusive of wine.

Beaumaris, February 1868.

D. KENT JONES, *Hon. Sec.*

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE third ordinary meeting of the session was held at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, on January 23rd; R. W. COE, F.R.C.S., President. There were present thirty members and visitors.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were elected members of the Association and of this Branch: John Terry, Esq., Bath; T. E. Bennett, M.D., Kilmersdon; Carey P. Coombs, M.B., Castle Carey; H. F. Parsons, M.B., Beckington; J. Nash Smart, Esq., Bedminster; L. M. Griffiths, Esq., Montpellier. Eleven other gentlemen were proposed and seconded, and will be ballotted for at the next meeting.

Paper.—Mr. PRICHARD exhibited a large and most interesting collection of life-size drawings of Deformities of the Hand which had come under his observation during several years past. Mr. Prichard, in his descriptive remarks, divided them into three classes: those of superfluous development, as extra fingers or thumbs; those of arrested or modified development; and those resulting from accident, in which parts were saved by surgical skill.—A discussion ensued, in which Mr. Davis, Mr. Hinton, Mr. Bartrum, Dr. Davey, Dr. Falconer, Mr. Lucy, Mr. Steele, and Mr. Coe, took part. Instances were enumerated showing hereditary transmission of deformities of the hand; through, in one instance, even four generations. The advisability of endeavouring to save injured parts was considered. Mr. Coe felt that, where joints were largely opened or tendons cut through, it was no use trying to save the member.

A valuable contribution on Tuberculous Meningitis was read by Dr. E. L. Fox. Discussion was prevented by the time of the meeting having more than expired.

MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND.

THE following cases were relieved at the monthly meeting, Jan. 28, 1868.

1. A widow, aged 50; husband M.D. Glasgow, M.R.C.S., L.S.A. He practised in Surrey, and afterwards in one of the North American colonies. He was killed by a fall from his carriage, leaving his family unprotected for. There is no income. The widow maintains herself and an invalid son by teaching and painting. She is now in feeble health. Recommended by T. B. Winter, Esq., Honorary Local Secretary, and Thomas Allen, M.D., subscribers. Voted £10. Placed in the hands of Mr. Winter for distribution.

2. A widow, aged 64, London, N.W., maintained by charitable aid. Repeatedly relieved; last in January 1866, £5. Recommended by Walter Justice, Esq., subscriber, and Rev. W. W. Champneys, non-subscriber. Voted £5.

3. M.D. Glasgow, L.S.A., aged 63, London, N.W. He has practised as an assistant; has no income; is married. He is disabled by incurable disease; and is dependent on friends. Relieved three times—£30 in all; last in June 1866, £5. Recommended by J. S. Christian, M.D., subscriber, and S. Lawrence Gill, Esq., non-subscriber. Voted £5.

4. M.R.C.S., aged 52, Worcester; married, and has four children (aged from 4 to 13). He has no income; has recently been in a lunatic asylum for twelve months, by which his practice was entirely broken up. £20 were given to his family in January 1867. Recommended by Dr. Protheroe Smith, subscriber, and Dr. Tyler Smith, non-subscriber. Voted £10.

5. A widow, aged 76, Scotland. Her husband (M.R.C.S.) practised in Yorkshire. She has no income. The cause of distress is a long illness. Relieved once; £10 in 1861. Recommended by T. Hammerton, Esq., subscriber, and Rev. J. Smeaton, non-subscriber. Voted £10.

6. The daughter, aged 45, Northamptonshire, of an annuitant of the

Fund recently deceased, after a long illness. Her means are exhausted, and her health impaired. Recommended by James P. Knott, Esq., subscriber, and Rev. Thos. C. Welch, non-subscriber. Voted £5. (Sent to Henry Terry, jun., Esq., Honorary Local Secretary, Northampton.)

7. M.R.C.S., aged 47, London, S.W. He is losing sight, and is incapacitated for practice. His only means of support are the earnings of his wife. Relieved twice, £10 each time; last in December 1866. Recommended by G. C. Jonson, Esq., and James Dixon, Esq., subscribers, and Dr. Hewan, non-subscriber. Voted £10. (Placed in the hands of Mr. Jonson for distribution.)

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

JANUARY 6TH, 1868.

HENRY SMITH, Esq., President, in the Chair.

Cases, etc.—Dr. DAY gave the particulars of a case of Fatty Tumour near the Anus. A gentleman had consulted him in September last with diarrhoea and some irritation about the rectum. The tumour was about the size of a hazel-nut, and looked very much like an abscess. On puncturing it, its real nature was ascertained. Dr. Day brought forward the case on account of the rare situation of such a tumour, and because it formed an appropriate sequel to one of fatty tumours of the dorsum of the foot which the President had exhibited to the Society at a previous meeting.

THE PRESIDENT sent round examples of Foreign Bodies which he had removed from the Bladder, including a portion of tobacco-pipe, a glass flower-tube from the male, and an ivory nail-trimmer which he had recently taken away from a female with the lithotrite.

The Impending Stage of Pulmonary Phthisis. By EDWARD HEAD, M.D. After placing the physical signs in their supposed order of precedence, the author submitted that they were in general sufficiently expressive to warrant the designation, "the impending stage", or at least to mark a phase in the disease antecedent to tuberculation, arising from lessened vitality of the lungs. To show that lowly organised structures should be the first to suffer in enfeebled states, he instanced ulceration of the cornea. He believed the physical signs were expressive of deterioration of the elastic tissue of the lungs, and saw no reason why such a condition should not be admitted as existing *per se*, or from general debility antecedent to tuberculation. The author then spoke of the epithelial theory of tubercle, to which there is the fatal objection; that tubercle is met with in organs devoid of epithelium. The author concluded by saying that, if the theory of impending phthisis be tenable, there is much necessity for exercising the organs of respiration as recommended by Sir Henry Holland, Sir J. Clark, and Dr. E. Smith.

A discussion followed, in which Dr. Thorowgood, Dr. Gibbon, Dr. Greenhalgh, Mr. Francis Mason, and Mr. Walter Coulson, took part.

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 1868.

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

THE meeting was unusually short. As many as twelve gentlemen failed at the last moment to present the specimens of which they had given notice. This is not as it should be, and, to say the least of it, is not respectful or convenient to the Society. We believe the Council have enacted that in such cases gentlemen will not be allowed to present the specimens without intimation a second time in the usual form of their wish to do so.

Mr. HULKE read a report from the Committee on Morbid Growths in Mr. Spencer Watson's case of Exostosis of the Orbit. The tumour appeared to have sprung from the periosteum, under which were successive layers of bone.

Dr. PEACOCK showed an Aneurism of the Aorta from a patient aged 25, who had died in St. Thomas's Hospital. He had had rheumatic fever four years ago. While in hospital he had obstructive and regurgitant disease of the aortic valve, but there seemed to be more; there was tumefaction of the face and upper extremities, and there was a long ringing second sound over the heart. At the *post mortem* examination the aneurism was found to have ruptured into the right ventricle. It sprang from the point of junction of the right and left aortic valves. One pulmonary valve was entirely, and another considerably destroyed. The wall of the aneurism at the point of rupture was very thin.

Dr. ANSTIE exhibited for Dr. Basham a specimen of Ulcerative Endocarditis. The patient had first come as an out-patient to Dr. Anstie on December 9th. He was a soldier, aged 30, who had lost an arm.

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

LURGAN UNION: OVERCROWDING AND FEVER.

At the meeting of the Guardians on January 30th, the Master stated that the nurseries were overcrowded, and requested permission to have an alteration made, which was suggested by Dr. Knox in his last report on the state of the house.—The Doctor stated that nine children had been sent to the Fever Hospital that morning out of the Nursery in consequence of the overcrowding.—The necessary alterations were ordered to be made with the least possible delay.

ELECTION OF VACCINATORS.

SIR,—Let me, in a few words, give you an account of a recent election here for vaccinators. There are three medical districts, and for certain reasons under the Vaccination Act, our guardians divided the district into four vaccination districts. This would, it is supposed, have given each medical district officer, of which there are three, and the house-officer one, a vaccination district. On Tuesday, January 28th, the election came off. Two lines of action were discussed. Either to apportion vaccination districts to medical officers, or to elect independent vaccinators. Having an eye to economy, they decide to elect such men as live in each district, to save mileage. Acting on this rule, they elect to Nos. 1, 3, 4 districts men living in these districts; to No. 2 they elect a man living out of the district, against myself living in, and being also a district medical officer. In addition to an infringement of their own rule, the guardians (having power by Act of Parliament) perpetrate the injustice of depriving the medical officers of the vaccination, when they well know that when the salaries were fixed, the vaccination contracts were taken into consideration, as a "make weight" for the ill paid post of medical officer simply.

I am, etc., JOHN MANLEY,

Medical Officer to No. 1 District, West Bromwich Union.

West Bromwich, February 4th, 1868.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—At a general meeting of the Fellows, held on Thursday, January 30th, 1868, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, were duly admitted members of the College:—

Bright, George Charles, M.B. Oxon., 8, Southwick Crescent, Hyde Park
Cavafy, John, M.B. Lond., 26, Pembroke Gardens, Bayswater
Cooper, Charles William, M.B. Cantab., 2, Grenville Street, Brunswick Square
Grabham, Michael Comport, M.D. Aberdeen, Madeira
Silver, Alexander, M.D. Aberdeen, 8, Gray's Inn Place

At this meeting, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, and satisfied the College of their proficiency in the science and practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery, were duly admitted to practise physic as Licentiates of the College:—

Bushell, Stephen Wootton, Bickley
Groves, Joseph, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following members of the College, having undergone the necessary examinations, were admitted Licentiates in Midwifery at a meetings of the Board, on Feb. 5.

Douglas, William, Belfast; diploma of membership dated January 23, 1868
McKay, Hugh Munro, M.D. Victoria College, Toronto, Woodstock, Ontario; January 22, 1868
McLarty, Duncan, M.D. Victoria College, Toronto, St. Thomas's, Ontario; January 22nd, 1868
Prior, Richard Henry, L.S.A., Chichester; January 21, 1868

It is stated that two candidates failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Board.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, January 30th, 1868.

Baker, John Penning, 6, York Place, Portman Square
Berry, Other Windsor, 26, Canonbury Road, N.
Cresswell, Richard, Lewisham, Kent

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

Banks, Richard, Guy's Hospital
Mason, John Dawson, Guy's Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are declared:—

ABERDEEN—Medical Officer under Public Health Act.

BANGOR AND BEAUMARIS UNION—Medical Officer for the Anglesey No. 2 District.

BELGRAVE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN—Physician.

BELMULLET UNION, co. Mayo—Medical Officer for the Bangor Dispensary District.

BIRMINGHAM LYING-IN HOSPITAL—Resident Surgeon.
BRISTOL GENERAL INFIRMARY—Assistant House-Surgeon.
BRITISH LYING-IN HOSPITAL, Endell Street—Physician.
CHALMERS HOSPITAL, Banff—House-Surgeon.
CHESHIRE LUNATIC ASYLUM—Assistant Medical Officer.
DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON—Dental Surgeon.
DUDLEY UNION, Worcestershire—Medical Officer for District No. 3.
GLASGOW—Police Casualty Surgeon, and Assistant Sanitary Medical Officer of the Western District.
INFIRMARY FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Margaret Street, Cavendish Square—Physician.
ISLINGTON AND NORTH LONDON PROVIDENT DISPENSARY—Surgeon.
JERSEY LUNATIC ASYLUM—Medical Superintendent.
KILKEEL UNION, co. Down—Apothecary to Kilkeel Dispensary.
NORTHAMPTON GENERAL LUNATIC ASYLUM—Assistant Medical Officer.
SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL, Wolverhampton—Physician's Assistant.
ST. GEORGE'S AND ST. JAMES'S DISPENSARY, King Street—Physician-Accoucheur.
WIGTON UNION, Cumberland—Medical Officer, Aspatria District.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

HINGSTON, J. Tregelles, Esq., appointed Medical Superintendent of the Isle of Man Lunatic Asylum.
SANKEY, Richard H. H., Esq., appointed Medical Superintendent of the Littlemore Asylum, near Oxford.
SUTCLIFFE, W. Greenwood, Esq., appointed Surgeon to the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Provident Society, Victoria District, vice George Rottomley, Esq., of Croydon.

ARMY.

BECHER, Assistant-Surgeon E., M.D., 104th Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon, vice D. C. Taylor, M.D. deceased.
BONE, Staff-Surgeon T. G., M.D., to be Surgeon Ceylon Rifle Regiment, vice Surgeon-Major H. L. Cowen.
COWEN, Surgeon-Major H. L., Ceylon Rifle Regiment, to be Staff-Surgeon-Major, vice Staff-Surgeon T. G. Bone, M.D.
MALCOLM, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon J. V. T., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 7th Hussars, vice T. A. Thornhill, M.B.
O'NEILL, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon C. J., to be Assistant-Surgeon 104th Foot, vice E. Becher, M.D.
SMITH, Assistant-Surgeon W. P., 35th Foot, to be Staff-Assistant-Surgeon, vice R. Tate, M.D.
TATE, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon R., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 2nd Foot; vice B. J. Finegan, deceased.
THORNHILL, Assistant-Surgeon T. A., M.B., 7th Hussars, to be Staff-Assistant-Surgeon, vice J. V. T. Malcolm, M.D.

VOLUNTEERS.—(A.V., Artillery Volunteers; R.V., Rifle Volunteers.)
LEE, John, Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 8th Derbyshire R.V.

BIRTHS.

KIRBY.—On January 29th, at 18, Cambridge Terrace, the wife of Thomas C. Kirby, L.K.Q.C.P., of a son.
SECCOMBE.—On January 25th, at Terrington Lodge, King's Lynn, the wife of John T. Seccombe, M.D., of a daughter.
SWEETNAM.—On January 29th, at 2, Vernon Place, Bloomsbury, the wife of Stephen Sweetnam, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon R.N., prematurely, of a son, still-born.

DEATHS.

BALL, Richard Dechamp, Esq., M.R.C.S.E., Surgeon, aged 43, at Heckfield, Hants, on February 2nd.
BERNARD, William Rhodes, M.D., at Cheltenham, aged 75, on January 27th.
RENSHAW.—On January 12th, at Ashton-on-Mersey, Maria, widow of the late Jeremiah Renshaw, Esq., Surgeon, Altrincham.
THORBURN.—On January 25th, at Manchester, aged 2½, John Anderson, son of John Thorburn, M.D.

THE TYPHUS TAX.—Typhus prevailed epidemically at Liverpool from 1862 to 1866; and in 1866, from July to November, cholera carried off 1762 persons. Typhus destroyed 7669 lives during these five years, and of that number the working classes furnished 7143 victims.

NAVAL AND MILITARY RECRUITS.—In addition to height and chest measurement, no recruit (boys and lads excepted) is to be enlisted unless physically capable of bearing arms. This is found necessary, now that recruits may be enlisted at the age of 17 if sufficiently developed to enable them to bear arms.

GERMAN HOSPITAL.—At the annual general court, on Monday, it was stated that the annual subscriptions were £1,447 1s. 6d.; donations, £2,478 19s. 9d.; from patients in sanatorium, £184 0s. 9d.; dividend on funded property, £448 5s.; sundries, £92 10s. 5d.; total, £4,650 17s. 5d. The expenditure amounted to £5,269 8s. 10d., of which £638 6s. 10d. remained unpaid. There is also still a debt of £1,550 on the new building.

DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON.—At the annual general meeting on Thursday, the report stated that the progress of the institution during the year had been very satisfactory, the accounts showing a balance to its credit of £188 8s. 8d. During the year the hospital had received 15,670 patients.

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.—National Orthopaedic Hospital, 2 P.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.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY—Royal College of Surgeons, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Anatomy and Physiology of Invertebrate Animals."—Medical Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. Thorowgood, "On Remedial Measures in advanced Phthisis."

TUESDAY—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8 P.M., Ballot, 8.30 P.M., Mr. Curgenven, "On Infantile Remittent Fever erroneously called Typhoid"; Mr. H. Lee, "Case of Double Hernia in a Single Sac."—Ethnological Society of London, 8 P.M. Professor Busk and Mr. John Evans, "On Human Remains and Works of Art found in the Tumuli and Caves in Portugal"; Rev. Houghton, "On the Hairy Men of Eastern Asia"; Dr. Hyde Clark, "On the Varii of Tacitus."

WEDNESDAY—Royal College of Surgeons, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Anatomy and Physiology of Invertebrate Animals."

FRIDAY—Royal College of Surgeons, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Anatomy and Physiology of Invertebrate Animals."—Clinical Society, Intermittent Hæmaturia. Renal Abscess. Fibrous Phthisis.

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.

A PHYSICIAN (Dublin) should authorise us to append his name to the communication.

ABSOLON versus STATHAM.

FURTHER contributions have been received from:—E. Sercombe, Esq., £2:2; Dr. Markham, £1:1; J. Lord, Esq., £1:1; Archibald Mein, Esq. (Edinburgh), £3:3; J. Corbett, Esq. (Dublin), £2:2; J. H. Parson, Esq. (Halifax), £1:1; W. Hay, Esq., £1:1; J. W. Kekwich, Esq. (Carlisle), £1:1; F. W. Morgan, Esq. (Leamington), 10s. 6d.; J. W. Lomax, Esq. (Manchester), £1:1; W. J. Taylor, Esq., £1:1; T. Underwood, Esq., £2:2; W. J. Bryan, Esq. (Liverpool), £1:1; C. H. Bromley, Esq. (Southampton), £1:1; E. Bromley, Esq. (Southampton), £1:1; R. H. Moore, Esq. (Dublin), £2:2; W. Izod Doherty, Esq. (Dublin), £1:1. The subscription-list will be closed on February 20th. Gentlemen who have promised, or intend, to assist, are therefore requested to send their contributions on or before that date, to E. Saunders, Esq., Honorary Treasurer, 13A, George Street, Hanover Square, London, W.; or to Dr. Cholmeley, Honorary Secretary, 40, Russell Square, London, W.C.

DR. GREENE (Moira).—Safely received.

L.R.C.P. EXAMINATION.

SIR,—Can you inform me why candidates for the diploma of L.R.C.P. are required to be examined in midwifery and diseases of women, when they have already obtained the L.M. of the College of Surgeons? Candidates for the L.R.C.P., who are members of the College of Surgeons, are exempted from examination in surgery. Surely the L.M. diploma ought to be a sufficient guarantee of obstetrical knowledge, considering it is a special examination, has specially appointed examiners, and grants a special diploma. I am, etc., M.A. CANTAB. and L.M.R.C.S.E. January 1868

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.

A STUDENT (Littlehampton).—The session is too far advanced to be recognised by the College even as half a session. The Brighton Hospital is recognised for surgical practice.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest:—The Protestant Watchman and Lurgan Gazette, February 1st; The Rock, January 17th; The Worcestershire Chronicle, January 20th; The Birmingham Daily Gazette, January 31st; The Newcastle Daily Chronicle, February 3rd;

ANTIDOTE TO SNAKE BITES.

SIR,—Having read an extract from the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, in which there is an offer by Dr. Shortt, Madras, to give five hundred rupees to any one who possesses the means of curing the poisonous bites of serpents, I beg to inform you that I have a preparation which has been fully tried in Spain, and always proved highly successful. I should be glad if you would let me know how I can put myself in communication with the gentleman who requires this, in order that I may lay before him satisfactory proofs of the efficacy of my means of curing not only the bites of any snakes, but also hydrophobia. I am, etc., FRANZ CH. HERRERA.

17, Warwick Place, Belgrave Road, Pimlico.

We have received from T. T., Edinburgh, a further donation of £2 for the orphans of the late Mr. Padmore.

"THE CLUB-DOCTOR."

SIR,—No one who knew Dr. Heslop twenty years since—who remembers his great abilities, his indomitable industry, his rare independence, and his zeal for the honour and social status of his profession—will feel surprised at the position he has acquired, or the efforts he has made for the advancement of hospital reform, or is now making *in re* the club doctor's question. But, granting all that he urges, it strikes me that he has not yet "probed" the root of the evil. He assumes, quite truly, that the remuneration for attendance on benefit societies is miserably inadequate and detrimental to the interests of the surgeon and the patient, and that the remedy of the evil is in the hands of the former.

Undoubtedly, in the abstract, this is true; but equally undoubtedly, as I believe, this is not the whole truth, which lies still deeper. It lies in the derelictions of the licensing bodies; in the systems, or rather no systems, of examination; and in the facilities afforded by certain schools and certain "grinders" for pitchforking ignorant and improper persons into the ranks of the profession. Here lies the *font et origo mali*, and to this point our efforts for eradication must be directed. If the profession consisted of educated gentlemen, if the "drug" element were eliminated, the present proceedings would be superfluous; but whilst its ranks are recruited from uneducated assistants and druggists' shop-boys, there is small hope of success in the present contest.

But it may be asked by the uninitiated: "How do these persons gain access to the ranks of the profession?" I answer, first, by the practical abrogation of the laws of certain licensing bodies relating to the admission of members to their bodies; and I can mention the names of parties, now full-fledged "doctors," who received their diplomas without ever entering a medical school! ever attending a lecture! ever seeing, much less making a dissection! or ever even "walking" a hospital! I answer, secondly, by the "bidding" of certain medical schools—perhaps chiefly provincial (it may be equally so in London; I speak of what I know)—for *alumni* to their precious *alma mater*.

My lot has been cast, sir, in a densely populous district, where a certain energetic and ambitious member of our profession, some thirty years since, established a medical school. Endowed with a rare combination of qualities for success in such an undertaking, he worked assiduously day and night to promote the health and strength of his "bantling," and with success which astonished himself and his friends. The school became a "college"; lords and squires, bishops and country gentlemen, became its patrons; the promoter was hailed as a great philanthropist, and as the champion of education in the district. I will not allude, sir, to the present position of this "concern"; suffice it to say, that this "great success" grew on the ruin of the profession in this district; and how? The school was established, the "professors" appointed, but students in numbers sufficient to make it pay were not forthcoming. Here was a collapse; how was it to be met? The apprentice clause was then in operation (its abolition, spite of all the scientific twaddle raised against it, was a grave mistake), and so to evade it, all men and boys who elected to become pupils at the school, were presented by the great professor with an indenture, and so the floodgates to medical decadence were opened; and this went on till the apprentice clause was done away with, and then things became ten times worse; and it is a fact which cannot be disputed, that, at the present moment, the "great college" in my native town is actively engaged in converting druggists' shop-boys into M.D.'s. The energy and success of this "great educational institution" is amply testified by the number of "establishments" you may see scattered through the district for twenty miles round, at which, on houses rented at from £12 upwards, Dr. Squill, M.D., surgeon and accoucheur, dispenses with equal energy and knowledge medical advice, oils and colours, Morison's pills, Holloway's ointment, horse and cattle medicines, soap and candles.

Sir, I pledge my reputation on the truth of this description, and I am prepared to prove it. But it will be asked, How do these things come to pass? Simply thus. Any druggist's apprentice or assistant who wishes it, and can raise the fees, becomes a "student"; he attends lectures when not better employed by more profitable or urgent business engagements; he studies medicine "over the counter" when at home; and, in due time, is ready for the "grinder". Now, the grinders of a certain "hardware village" have a world-wide reputation for putting a sharp edge and bright polish on the most spurious material, and turning it out in a condition fitted for certain markets—certain to impose on the unwary, and incapable of detection, till applied to use. The "grinders" I allude to are in no way inferior to their brethren at the "stone": they can polish "most anything", and so, by a "fortuitous concurrence" of lax examining boards, obsequious "colleges", and sharp grinders, our profession is stocked with a race of men who, I believe, and in some cases know, to be worthy, honest, and respectable, and well fitted to adorn the position for which they were originally destined; but who, being stimulated by a false ambition, or, may be, an overweening vanity, have assumed a status for which they are unfitted by habits, by education, and by social condition.

It is not then to be wondered that such men are unable to eliminate medical science from the drug-trade, and the feelings and instincts of an educated gentleman from the shop. Far be it from me to "cast a stone" at them; but I do repudiate the system, which tempts them to a step which, I believe, is ruinous to the best interests of any of us, and which at once renders us ridiculous and miserable; viz., thrusting ourselves into a position we are neither qualified or able to fill.

This, in my opinion, is the root of the evil with which Dr. Heslop is endeavouring to grapple. If his efforts are to be successful, both he and we, as I believe, must strike deeper than he has done. I am, etc., X.

December 1867.

N.B.—Having exposed the root, I may some day deal with the branches, if time permit.

* I know of a case, now in existence, in which a mistaken but benevolent individual has established a "dispensary", which goes by his name. The dispensary is the "druggist's shop"; the "surgeon" is one of these "druggist-doctors"; and he receives as, for each note sent to him. What are clubs at 2s. 6d. per head *per annum* after this "fact".

NOTE ON PANCREATINE.

Sir,—So little is at present known of the medicinal effects of pancreatine, that I think the following note may be of interest to medical men.

In July 1866, I was consulted by a solicitor from Cornwall, aged 27, whose rapid decline in health was causing the greatest concern among his friends. He had the general symptoms of advancing tuberculosis, softening of the upper part of the left lung, partial consolidation of the right; weight 119 pounds. With the assistance of cod-liver oil, pancreatic emulsion, good diet, and a winter at Bournemouth, where I placed him under the care of Mr. Allis Smith, he got on very well, and returned to Cornwall in March 1867.—September 1867, he wrote me: "Cough and expectoration increase. I feel weak in body, occasionally having heavy perspirations; unable to get pancreatic emulsion for some time, but expect some to-day."—November 19, 1867. He had considerably improved since his note in September, and I again sent him to Bournemouth under Mr. Allis Smith's care. Weight 121 pounds 4 ounces.—January 3, 1868. He wrote as follows: "For the past six weeks I have been regularly trying pancreatine. The effect it has had on my digestion is most extraordinary; and during that time I have taken about two tablespoonfuls per day of cod-liver oil (following them immediately with ten grains of pancreatine) without the smallest feeling of indigestion; this I could never do before. I have, in the same time, gained ten pounds in weight. My friend Dr. Coote has, in the last month, given it to two patients (the second one only lately); the first, who is suffering from tubercular disease of the lungs, and was unable to take the cod-liver oil, and was a martyr to indigestion, says that since she has taken the pancreatine she has been able (like myself) to take the oil, and still not feel indigestion. Dr. Coote desires me to tell you that when he has more data he will write you fully."

Writing again, January 12, he says: "My bodily health seems better in every way; I have had no indigestion whatever since I began the present treatment; weight to-day 134 pounds, making a total increase of twelve pounds twelve ounces since November 19." It will be observed that, although in July 1866 he was in the softening stage of tuberculosis, he weighs at the present time fifteen pounds more than he did then. But the particular interest of the case lies in the circumstance that after having been kept up in weight by good diet, cod-liver oil, and pancreatic emulsion, he made a leap of twelve pounds twelve ounces when pancreatine was added to his treatment, and that the difficulty which he had always felt in digesting cod-liver oil disappeared. I have seen similar effects in other cases, though not quite so sudden. I am, etc.,

HORACE DOBELL, M.D.

84, Harley Street, January 1868.

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.

MR. MONTGOMERY.—The subject is under discussion by a committee appointed for the purpose by the Council of the College.

DR. RYAN.—The celebrated Sydenham died at his house in Pall Mall in 1689, next the "Golden Pestle and Mortar", which sign still remains, or did very lately, on the north side of the street.

COLNEY HATCH ASYLUM.

Sir,—In No. 365 of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* (p. 600), I find a letter in which Dr. Clay Shaw, Assistant Medical Officer to the Colney Hatch Lunatic Asylum, overwhelms me with abuse. I should not heed such a merely personal attack, which I have by no means provoked, if I could be sure that all your readers were acquainted with the point in question; but as this is probably not the case, I trust you will allow me a short reply.

Dr. Sheppard, the senior officer of the asylum, has recommended a new method of treatment for destructive maniacal patients, a method which has been much discussed as well in England as in Germany. In common with many others, I am of opinion that this method is prejudicial and inexpedient; and have stated in my paper, that the recommendation of this method by a physician to the insane ("Irenaziti") could only be understood by the consideration of the fact, that this physician, as is actually the case in Colney Hatch, is overburdened by the excessive number of patients under his care. I have further pointed out, that the numerous opponents, existing also in Germany, to the "non-restraint system", would take advantage of the recommendation of Dr. Sheppard's plan, in order to spread distrust in the English system of treatment. My own intention was to prevent this with regard to Germany, by showing that Dr. Sheppard's method was not a necessary consequence of non-restraint, but of the enormous "agglomeration" of patients; that, therefore, the fault was to be looked for in the Colney Hatch Asylum itself. I do not think that I have thus committed any wrong, or that I have been guilty of indiscretion; and I scarcely need assure you that I should not have mentioned Dr. Sheppard's name, if the subject which he defends had not been already well known and much discussed; it is not I who have rendered his name inseparable from the subject. Why, then, does Dr. Clay Shaw heap injuries upon me? Because I have stated that I have seen the system vaunted by his senior officer (to shut up destructive patients naked) carried out on a patient in the Colney Hatch Asylum! I confess that I cannot understand this; for the indignation which Dr. Shaw exhibits at this statement of mine, is plainly a reproach to his senior officer, who recommends this method. Even if, therefore, the facts which I have stated were incorrect, I should not see cause for the manner in which he abuses me.* I maintain, however, the facts which I have stated to their full extent; and am further quite certain that I have expressed towards Dr. Shaw my disagreement with this plan of treatment. I must, therefore, assume that Dr. Shaw, owing to my imperfect manner of expressing myself in a foreign tongue, has not quite understood me. With regard, however, to the further peculiar statement of my honourable *confirre*, that I had been "anxious to enforce some ideas of mine on lesions of the spinal cord in general paralysis," I beg leave to remind him of his spontaneous request to send him my articles, in order that he might translate them into English; which, unluckily, I have forgotten to do. If this was not likewise a mere act of courtesy—as, from certain words in his letter, I must now believe it was—it shows that Dr. Shaw took then, at all events, some interest in the subject.

I deeply regret, sir, to be forced thus to repel an attack which, in such a form, ought not to occur amongst men of science; but I was all the more compelled to this short reply, as the attack came from England, where, during the whole of my stay, I was always received in the most hospitable manner.

Berlin, January 1868.

I am, etc., DR. C. WESTPHAL.

* If, for instance, Dr. Shaw had visited some of our German asylums in which the strait-waistcoat is still used, and had related in an English journal that he had found several patients in the strait-waistcoat in the one or other asylum, would any of those German physicians who approve of the system of mechanical restraint consider himself offended? Most certainly not.

M.D. (Bermondsey).—The person named has, we are informed, no right to call himself a *surgeon*. This answer applies also to the communication of "a member of the Association, Holloway."

POISONING BY A PAPER-COLLAR.

DR. VAN DER WEYDE, Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology in the New York Medical College, reports in the *Philadelphia Medical Reporter* a case of poisoning of a child, who had eaten the greater part of a paper-collar which had been thrown away; a gentle emetic and some other remedies serving to remove the poison, caused the symptoms to subside, in not less, however, than about forty hours. When these collars are chemically examined, some are found to be covered with zinc-white (oxide of zinc), and others with powdered heavy spar (sulphate of baryta); both substances are more or less poisonous; the zinc preparations, however, by their emetic properties are their own antidotes, and when we are certain that we have to do with nothing else, an emetic is unnecessary, and warm water, with some butter to promote the vomiting, is all that is required. The preparations of barium, however, are mostly poisonous, and never cause vomiting, except in large doses, when also convulsions and other alarming symptoms appear. For these, emetics and the stomach-pump are to be recommended. The wearing of these paper-collars has also produced in some individuals eruptions around the neck, where the perspiration partially dissolved the white paint, and caused it to enter the pores of the skin. Knowing what some of these collars are covered with, this is not to be wondered at.

A PROVINCIAL SURGEON.—The late Dr. Scott of Portsmouth was the first person to perform cesophagotomy in this country. He was elected a Fellow of the College. The operation has since been performed by Mr. Cock of Guy's Hospital. Mr. Elliott, Surgeon to the Chichester Infirmary, operated three times on the same subject by lithotomy.

PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE.

SIR,—What is the proper course to adopt when a neighbouring practitioner is called in to meet one in consultation, if one cannot agree with the treatment he proposes? For instance, suppose that, agreeing with one's diagnosis that the patient is suffering from coma, the effect of an epileptic fit, he proposes (and adheres to his proposition, giving no reason for the treatment) to give fifteen minims of tincture of hyoscyamus every four hours, and a large dose of compound ipecacuanha powder at bedtime. Ought one to tell the friends of the patient that one cannot agree with the treatment proposed, and offer to give up the case? or how should one act under the circumstances? I am, etc.,

JUSTITIA.

* Disagreement in consultation is fortunately very rare: a little friendly discussion generally clears up the points of difference. If no agreement can be come to, the difficulty must of course be stated, and a third person called; or one of the obvious alternatives must be adopted at the choice of the patient or friends.

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.

J. M.—1. The Poor-law Medical Officers' Manual, by Mr. Walsh of the Poor-law Board; 2. The Metropolitan Poor-law Medical Officers' Association, Honorary Secretary, Dr. T. O. Dudfield, 8, Upper Phillimore, Place, Kensington.

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

Dr. William Roberts, Manchester (with enclosure); Mr. William Copney, London (with enclosure); Mr. T. Spencer Wells, London (with enclosure); Dr. Spencer Thomson, Torquay (with enclosure); Dr. John Murray, London (with enclosure); Dr. Robert Barnes, London (with enclosure); Mr. W. F. Raleigh, Liverpool; Dr. Gray, Oxford; Mr. R. MacPherson, Birmingham; Dr. Septimus Gibbon, London (with enclosure); Dr. Thompson Dickson, London (with enclosure); Dr. Cleland, Galway; Dr. Williams, Worcester (with enclosure); Dr. Kennedy, Dublin; Dr. Dyce Duckworth (with enclosure); Mr. W. B. Lewis, Manchester; Mr. Bartlett, Birmingham (with enclosure); Dr. Hermann Weber, London (with enclosure); Dr. Guy, Doncaster; Mr. Hingston, Northampton; 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. Laycock, Edinburgh (with enclosure); Dr. Edmunds, London (with enclosure); Miss Firth, London (with enclosure); Mr. R. W. Dunn, jun., London (with enclosure); Dr. R. H. Semple, London (with enclosure); The Secretary of the Medical Society of London (with enclosure); Mr. John Manley, West Bromwich; Mr. Lord, Hampstead; Mr. Steele, Bath (with enclosure); Dr. G. B. Mead, Newmarket; Mr. H. Wilson, Dublin; Dr. Hawkesly, London; Dr. W. Anderson, Richmond (with enclosure); Mr. J. M. Westbrook; Mr. D. Kent Jones, Beaumaris (with enclosure); Dr. Milner Barry, Tunbridge Wells (with enclosure); Mr. T. B. Curling, London (with enclosure); The Honorary Secretaries of the Ethnological Society of London (with enclosure); Dr. Eastlake, London (with enclosure); The Honorary Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society (with enclosure); Dr. Acland, Oxford; Mr. W. G. Sutcliffe, Battersea; Dr. C. J. B. Aldis, London; Mr. Cooper, London; Mr. St. G. Mivart; Sir J. Y. Simpson, Edinburgh (with enclosure); Mr. Callender, London (with enclosure); Dr. W. B. Hay, Hull; Dr. Harling, London; Dr. Hingston, Montreal; Mr. C. H. Moore, London (with enclosure); Dr. Cholmeley, London (with enclosure); Dr. May, Rathfriland, co. Down; Mr. H. E. Norris, Charnmouth; Mr. C. W. Browne, Hammer-smith; Mr. F. Buzard, Northampton (with enclosure); Dr. Greene, Moira; and Dr. Divers, London.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

On Certain Moral Aspects of Money-getting. By W. T. Gairdner, M.D. Glasgow: 1868.
The Rugeley Parish Magazine for February.