

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

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.*

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE next meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Infirmary, Gravesend, on Friday, March 6th, at 3.30 P.M.

Dinner at the Union Club House, at 5.45 P.M. Notice of intention to dine is particularly requested.

Paper on clinical subjects—Aphasia, Apoplexy in Renal Disease, Injuries of Olecranon and of Tibia. By Dr. Cockburn, R.E.—Paper on a Case of Urinary Calculus that had Ulcerated its way into the Vagina. By A. W. Nankivell, Esq.

FREDERICK JAMES BROWN, M.D., *Hon. Secretary.*
Rochester, February 17th, 1868.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

BIRMINGHAM.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

SINCE my last letter from Birmingham, a great deal has occurred which affects the interests of the medical profession. But first let me express the feeling of satisfaction among the members of the Association in this neighbourhood with regard to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL. We are glad to see that it is being generally recognised by the profession as a journal of the highest scientific character, and by the public press and in parliament as an authority in matters of medical interest. The frequent quotations from its columns in the newspapers are a sure index that its information is recent and accurate; while the published list of contributions for the present year is a promise of future excellence in medical and surgical science, at least equal to the past.

Our Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch has thus far had a most successful session. The numbers that have attended the monthly general meetings have been greatly in excess of the attendances of former years. At one meeting, sixty members were present. Doubtless this is, in some measure, due to the more convenient time at which these meetings are held in the present than in former years. When the meetings were in the evening, many were unable to attend, from the requirements of home patients, while others were at that time enjoying quiet after work. Although the afternoon meetings have assisted in renewing the vigour of the Branch, much is also due to the more interesting character of the papers and discussions; many have been on subjects appealing immediately to the interests of the profession. At the foundation of the Branch, one of the original rules was "that all subjects connected with medical science or the profession be admissible for discussion." Hitherto, however, medical science has had it all its own way at the Branch meetings; and, until this year, papers on medical ethics have not been contributed. Great interest has been exhibited at the meetings. The debate on a paper by Dr. Percy Leslie on "Gratuitous Medical Services, their Evils and their Remedy," was twice adjourned, and fifty members of the Branch were present at the last discussion.

The Club Committee appointed by the Branch in October last, on the motion of Dr. Heslop, has done good work in preparing an able and temperate report on the remuneration of medical officers to sick assurance societies. This report, widely circulated in the pages of the JOURNAL, has been separately published and widely distributed. Acting

upon the recommendation of the Club Committee, the surgeons of a large and wealthy provident society here—the Cannon Street Club—applied to have the subject of their remuneration considered, with a view to its being raised. The Committee having refused this, eight out of the ten surgeons have resigned, and are only continuing their duties out of consideration to the sick members under their care. To decline to accede to an increase of pay to their surgeons, would probably have been an unfair and impolitic act on the part of the Committee; to refuse to entertain the consideration of the subject was an act of gross injustice, which none would have more eagerly deprecated, if applied to themselves, than the members of this society. It is much to be regretted that the entire medical staff could not act unanimously in the matter. The long pull and the strong pull are always very much helped by the pull altogether. A memorial approving an increase in the remuneration of club-surgeons has been signed by almost every member of the profession in the town and suburbs. The next meeting of the Cannon Street Club is on Friday next; and I will inform you of the result.

The desire for a more liberal appreciation of the professional services is not confined to the club-surgeons, nor is the impolitic and unfair refusal of just demands confined to the club committees. A request similar to that just mentioned was made by the medical and surgical staff of the General Dispensary in this town, and was refused. This led to the resignation, in this case, of the whole honorary staff of the Dispensary. In the letter conveying the resignation, they call attention to the fact that the income of the charity is largely greater than its expenditure, and is daily increasing; and also regret to notice that the Committee, while ignoring the claims of their medical officers, are about to extend the boundaries of the districts and increase the privileges of the subscribers, thus adding greatly to the work of the staff. An impression is about, that the Committee intend to dispense altogether with the services of their honorary officers, and replace them by an increase in the paid staff—an alteration which, I fear, if carried out, will be fatal to the interests and reputation of the charity.

The amalgamation of the medical schools of Queen's College and Sydenham College is now practically accomplished, and will give us one school in a convenient central situation, midway between the two hospitals, and having the support of members of the honorary medical and surgical staff of both. It is a subject of deep regret, however, that one or two of our best teachers have been unable to act with their colleagues in assisting the amalgamation, and that the united school will lose the advantage of their influence, counsel, and experience. A scheme for filling up the chairs has been decided upon by a committee from each school, and presents a strong list of professors—men of influence and standing as well as of teaching experience. Supported by the medical profession and by the public, and with the great advantage to be obtained at our hospitals in practical surgery and clinical medicine, I think there can be but little doubt that the Birmingham School of Medicine at Queen's College has before it a brilliant future. The following is the list of professors proposed by the committee:—

Medicine: James Russell, M.D. Lond., Physician to the General Hospital; B. W. Foster, M.D., Physician to the Queen's Hospital.

Surgery: Oliver Pemberton, Esq., Surgeon to the General Hospital; Furneaux Jordan, Esq., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital.

Anatomy: C. J. Bracey, M.B. Lond.; W. P. Goodall, Esq.

Anatomical Demonstrations: James Hinds, M.B. Lond.; W. Thomas, M.B. Lond.

Physiology: R. Norris, M.D.; T. H. Bartleet, M.B. Lond., Surgeon to the General Hospital.

Chemistry: Alfred Hill, M.D.; Alfred Anderson, Esq.

Midwifery: John Clay, Esq.; John Bassett, Esq.

Botany: William Hinds, M.D.

Materia Medica: John St. J. Wilders, Esq., Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital; G. Mackey, M.B. Lond.

Forensic Medicine: T. Swain, Esq.; Alfred Hill, M.D.

Diseases of Women: Samuel Berry, Esq., F.R.C.S.

Diseases of Children: R. C. R. Jordan, M.D. Lond.

Comparative Anatomy: T. Savage, M.D.

Dental Physiology and Surgery: T. Howkins, Esq.

OBITUARY.

DEATH OF DR. HUGH H. BROUGHTON.

We announce with regret the death of this estimable member of the British Medical Association, which occurred on Friday week, at Preston, Lancashire. He had reached that time of life when the faculties of men attain their highest point, when opinions have been tested by experiment, and original thoughts are arranged and incorporated with settled axioms. He was born in 1808, and entered his professional studies by becoming the apprentice of Mr. Jackson, Surgeon to the Bolton Infirmary (the father of Mr. T. Carr Jackson of London). After a short term of apprenticeship, he was entered at Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals, and at the then celebrated Webb Street School (Grain-ger's). Here he made such progress that he felt justified in offering himself for examination at the Royal College of Surgeons; but, wanting a few days of the required age, his application was refused, whereupon he presented himself at the Hall, and, having passed, he at once started for Dobcross, Yorkshire. Here, with only this licence, he achieved great success as a surgeon, and at the early age of thirty was made J.P. Seeking a larger field, he removed to Preston, and in 1849 graduated as M.D. of King's College, Aberdeen. Next year he became a member of the London College of Surgeons, and in 1859 of the College of Physicians. In Preston he rapidly obtained a large and lucrative practice; and, notwithstanding his various professional duties, for he was now examining physician to several life-assurance offices, and his pressing municipal duties, for he was also a magistrate for the West Riding of York and county of Lancaster,—he became a valuable contributor to the *JOURNAL of the Association*. Amongst his writings were papers on "The Position of Objects on the Retina", on "Amputation under the Influence of Ether", and on "The Use of Ether in Tetanus". To a contemporary he also contributed a paper on "Mr. Gay's Operations for Hernia".

Dr. Broughton began to fail, under the stress of long continued labour, in Christmas last. He had the advantage of the services of Mr. T. Carr Jackson and Drs. Bence Jones and Brinton, all of whom went down from London to see him and advise on his case. He appeared to recover, and hopes were entertained of a prolonged existence; but a relapse came on, and, notwithstanding all the care of Dr. Gilbertson of Preston, Dr. Whitehead of Manchester, and Mr. T. Carr Jackson, he expired on the 14th inst.

THE LATE TITUS BERRY, ESQ.

In the obituaries of last month appeared the name of Titus Berry, Esq., F.R.C.S. Eng., who died January 21st, at his residence, Chester Terrace, London, in the eighty-eighth year of his age, and whose patience and resignation during a long illness endeared him to all around. Though for some time retired from practice, he had in his day occupied such a prominent position in his profession as to deserve a special notice. He was a younger brother of the late Admiral Sir Edward Berry, K.C.B., whose career in the navy is a matter of history, connected as it was with the death of Nelson. The deceased was formerly a surgeon in the army, in which service he gained no small reputation. He served through the whole of the Peninsular war, but retired from the army after the battle of Waterloo. At the time of Napoleon's escape from Elba, Mr. Berry was at the Congress of Vienna with Lord Cathcart, and was sent with the news to the British Government. There were no telegraphs, railways, or ocean-steamers, in those days; and such a mission was no easy undertaking. Mr. Berry travelled for ten days and nights continuously, hardly ever quitting his carriage. For this zealous service he received a reward of £500. On retiring from the army, he entered into private practice, which was principally confined to his old comrades, their friends and families, including the then Duke of Northumberland. He was respected by all for his genial disposition and professional skill. He was nearly the senior Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, having become a Member in 1801, and Fellow in 1844. He was born in 1780, and in 1832 married Sarah Isabella, eldest daughter of the late Robert Hurst, Esq., of Stamford. His remains were removed for interment in the quiet and retired country churchyard of Easton, near Stamford, on Tuesday, January 28th.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

THE RADCLIFFE TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP has, after examination, been awarded to Mr. E. J. Sparks, B.A., of Corpus Christi College. Mr. Sparks obtained a first class in the School of Natural Science in Michaelmas term 1866. This Fellowship is of the value of £200 per annum, and tenable for three years. The Fellow elected is expected to study medicine abroad, and forfeits his fellowship by spending more than eighteen months within the United Kingdom.

MERTON COLLEGE.—On Wednesday, April 22nd, there will be held in this College an election to one Natural Science Scholarship, value £80 per annum. Candidates, if members of the University, must not have resided more than six terms. There is no limit of age; and the scholarship is tenable for five years. Papers will be set in Chemistry, Physics, and Physiology; but candidates are not expected to offer more than one subject. Candidates must send or bring to the Warden, on or before Thursday, April 16th, testimonials of good conduct, and, if necessary, certificates of age or standing. The examination will begin on Friday, April 17th, at 9.30 A.M.

THE CORONERSHIP.—The election for two coroners to the University will take place this day (Feb. 22nd). The appointment is in the hands of Convocation, a body composed of resident and non-resident M.A.s, and a sharp contest is expected. The candidates for the two vacancies are Mr. Frederick Symonds, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Surgeon to the Radcliffe Infirmary; Mr. J. M. Davenport, Solicitor and Secretary to the Bishop of Oxford; and Mr. Frederick P. Morrell, M.A., of St. John's College, solicitor. We heartily wish Mr. Symonds success, and shall be glad to find that the University has recognised the merits of one so deservedly respected by placing him on her list of officers.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

NATURAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP, TRINITY COLLEGE.—All undergraduates of Oxford and Cambridge may be candidates at the examination, and not merely those in their first year, as might be inferred from the announcement recently made. The examination will be in Easter week; and candidates must send in their names, as well as the subjects in which they wish to be examined, to the Master of the College before March 18th. Further information may be obtained from the Rev. E. Blore, Tutor of the College.

PRIVY COUNCIL ORDER ON VACCINATION.

At the meeting of the Privy Council on Tuesday, new regulations were passed, and will be forthwith issued, for vaccination and re-vaccination, under the authority of the Act of 1867. In accordance with these rules, the public vaccinator, under ordinary circumstances, is to vaccinate only at public stations, and not oftener than once weekly; and, if in a town district, only at one station therein. Limitation is imposed, as regards towns, on the smallness of districts for vaccination. Each district must contain an estimated population of at least 25,000 persons. The performance of re-vaccination by the public vaccinator on persons applying to him for that purpose shall be limited in each case by the following conditions: (1) that, so far as the public vaccinator can ascertain, the applicant has attained the age of fifteen years, or, if during any immediate danger of small-pox, the age of twelve years, and has not before been successfully re-vaccinated; (2), that, in the public vaccinator's judgment, the proposed re-vaccination is not for any sufficient medical reasons undesirable; and (3) that the public vaccinator can afford vaccine lymph for the purpose, without in any degree postponing the claims which are made on him for the performance of primary vaccination in his district.

BEQUESTS.—Mr. John Hague has bequeathed £500 to the Leeds Infirmary. Mr. William Nicholson, Duke Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, has left to the Aylesbury Infirmary, £300; the Asylum for Incurables, £300; the Royal Free Hospital, £200; the Asylum for Idiots, at Earlwood, £200; the Cripples' Home, £200; and the Hospital for Sick Children, £200. Miss Elizabeth F. Wyatt, of Oxford Terrace, has bequeathed £300 each to St. Mary's and the Royal Free Hospitals; and £200 to the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital.

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."

TUESDAY—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Clifford Allbutt, "On the State of the Optic Nerves and Retinae as seen in the Insane"; Dr. Cockle and Mr. J. D. Hill, "Case of Arabian Elephantiasis treated by Compression of the Femoral Artery, and Application of the Starched Bandage."—Ethnological Society.

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

THURSDAY—Royal Society.

FRIDAY—Royal College of Surgeons, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Anatomy and Physiology of Invertebrate Animals."—Clinical Society. Rheumatic Arthritis; Fibroid Phthisis; Cancer of Oesophagus; Operation for Varicocele.—Royal Institution.

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.

Z, A VOLUNTEER SURGEON.—The letter on the organisation of the Volunteer Medical Department shall appear next week.

CARBOLIC ACID.

SIR,—In an article which lately appeared in your paper, the beneficial effects of carbolic acid in varied combinations were described. With regard to what was called carbolic oil—*i. e.*, the acid with boiled linseed oil for external application—I wish to ask those who have used it, whether the boiled linseed oil of commerce (which contains litharge or lead in some form) has any injurious effects, so as to make it necessary to have an oil prepared specially for medical purposes.

I also should wish for information on another point from some of your chemical readers. I have occurred to me that a mixture of sulphur ointment, with paraffin or petrolene, would be more efficacious in the treatment of itch than either of these remedies alone. Is there any danger of making an explosive or otherwise highly dangerous compound by the combination of these two substances?

January 1868.

I am, etc., H. M. M.

MR. J. L. NEWTON (Isleham, Cambridgeshire).—We shall be happy to receive the papers.

MR. TERRY (Northampton).—We will investigate the matter, and reply next week.

MR. ORTON (Netley).—There has evidently been some regrettable miscarriage, which will, no doubt, be duly explained.

THETFORD.—A money order reached the office some days since from Thetford. Will the sender please to forward his name to Mr. Richards?

THE PADMORE FUND.

Subscriptions already announced	17	9	0
Mr. Eck	0	10	0
Mr. Hobson	0	10	0
Dr. J. Wakley	1	0	0
Dr. Richardson (Exmouth)	1	1	0
T. T. (per BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL)	2	0	0
Mr. Upton (Tadcaster)	0	2	6
Mr. Powle	0	3	6
Mr. Godfrey (Gibraltar)	0	5	0
	£22	18	0

This sum has been transmitted to Mr. Padmore's son-in-law, for the use of the family.

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.

A STUDENT will find the particulars in our advertising columns.

THE NEW VACCINATION ACT.

SIR,—Although this measure might have been improved by the acceptance of some amendments which I proposed, yet, should it lead to the general appointment of vaccination officers, it will do good. The profession should strive to get suitable men nominated as vaccination officers. It is matter for regret that the letter from the medical department of the Privy Council to the Poor-law Board on this subject, which you published on the 18th instant, did not give the duties of this officer in greater detail. The duties of this officer I take to be—

1. To inquire carefully into the alleged or apparent cases of default, so as to enable the guardians to prosecute the defaulters every half-year (sec. 27).

2. To enforce, if possible, the inspection of all vaccinated children on the seventh day (secs. 19, 29).

3. To serve a legal notice upon parents and others who may not have received notice from the registrar (sec. 31).

4. To keep himself informed of the progress of vaccination in his district as compared with the local birth register (sec. 28).

With respect to legal proceedings, they should certainly be left to the solicitor of the board.

These duties require a man of sufficient medical knowledge to distinguish a vaccination scar from other scars, and a cow-pox from any other vesicle or pustule. If the medical officer of health were appointed vaccination officer, it would remedy one serious defect in the Act, viz., taking from the medical officer of health the power of prosecuting recusants, which he had under an Act passed in 1861. I hand you a letter which I addressed to the Poor-law Board. I am, etc.,

13, Finsbury Square, E.C., Jan. 27, 1868.

SEPTIMUS GIBBON.

To George Selator Booth, Esq., M.P., Secretary to the Poor-law Board.

SIR,—Your Right Honourable Board will shortly have to approve, or rather to frame, the contracts for public vaccination under the act of 1867. During the passage of the bill through Parliament; but an addition was made to clause 6, which enables the Poor-law Board to sanction payments for vaccinations *done elsewhere than at an appointed station*. The intentions of the framers of the bill, as may be gathered from clauses 6, 16, 17, etc., schedule A, was strictly to confine all public vaccinations to *fixed times and stations*; but the Legislature, by the above alteration, have left it in the discretion of your Board to recognise, also, what may be termed occasional and domiciliary vaccinations. As I have had experience in the duties of a public vaccinator, I trust you will not think I am presuming too far on your well-known courtesy and impartiality, if I briefly state the advantages and disadvantages of these respective modes of effecting the vaccination of the poorer classes.

"In favour of *stational* vaccinations, it is argued that vaccinations ought to be done from arm to arm with recent and liquid lymph. Liquid, I admit, is more quickly and more certainly inserted under the skin than *dry* lymph, which requires to be previously moistened; but the appliances now in use, viz., the 'stopped phial' and the 'capillary tube,' enable us to preserve lymph in its fluid state for any length of time. In arm-to-arm inoculation there is the risk of a careless or unskilful operator transferring some of the blood and tissue, as well as the lymph, from one child to another—an accident which may be followed by very serious consequences, whereas the use of lymph from a fine capillary tube is a security against misadventure; because the tube acts like a strainer in preventing any admixture of 'blood,' 'pus,' or 'animal tissue.' The allegations made in the House of Commons and elsewhere against the use of preserved, stale, and dry lymph, have little, if any foundation in fact. Vaccination matter, like the seed of a plant, if properly kept, preserves its vitality for years. I have myself found it to be efficacious after twelve years, and a voyage to Australia and back. Another reason in favour of *stational* vaccination is, that it may deter any but the neediest persons from seeking vaccination at the public expense. This, however, is not the intention of the Act, or it would not have specially exempted public vaccinees from fines as to certificates and the stigma of parochial relief (clause 26). Unless the provision for the re-inspection of the children at the station on the seventh day (clause 17) be better enforced by penalties under this Act than under the late Act, it will be as impossible to vaccinate from arm to arm as it is now at most stations, because very few parents have been found to bring their children for such re-inspection; and, inasmuch as the new Act allows 'a reasonable excuse for the neglect' to exempt from the fine, which the old Act did not, I think these penalties will never be enforced. A rigid adherence to stations may be said to have been proved, under previous Acts, a failure. It is true that they were then *optional*, but will the mere rendering them *compulsory* enhance either their utility or their popularity with the people? The objections to compulsory stations are—

"1. Because the bringing together a number of children where parents are unknown to each other, is sure to be the means of spreading and keeping alive the very contagious diseases of infancy and childhood, just in the same manner as fairs and markets did the cattle-plague.

"2. Because, in the case of a sudden outbreak or importation of small-pox, it is of vital importance at once to vaccinate all unprotected adults and children in the immediate neighbourhood.

"3. Because the exigencies of medical practice are such that the vaccinator cannot always guarantee a punctual attendance at, it may be, a distant station.

"4. Because attendance at a station for several hours on at least two, if not more occasions, will entail expense, inconvenience, and loss of time on the poor, for which, if compulsory, they would in justice have a claim for pecuniary recompense.

"If domiciliary vaccination is good enough for the nobility, gentry, and middle classes of Society, the Poor-law Board would be justified in holding that it was good enough for the labouring classes. Inasmuch as each man will know best how to adapt his course to the circumstances of his own locality, and in future there will only be one vaccinator to each district, would it not be sound policy for the Poor-law Board to repose confidence in the judgment and discretion of the vaccinator, and allow him to vaccinate either at stations or from house to house as he may find expedient?

"I respectfully submit these reasons and arguments, in the confident belief that the Poor-law Board will administer this Act in a manner most favourable for the prevention of small-pox. Apologising for the length and other imperfections of this letter, I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

SEPTIMUS GIBBON, Medical Officer of Health."

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.

Dr. W. B. HERAPATH's paper is in type, and shall appear with the least possible delay.

Dr. FARQUHARSON (Coldstream Guards' Hospital).—The report is official. The author must himself, or through the Secretary, correct the error, if any have been made.

Sir,—During the past year, I met several practitioners who had under their care cases of masturbation occurring in both sexes, that had considerably baffled any treatment. I would, therefore, call the attention of your readers to the beneficial, or I may say curative, effects of ice applied either to the penis or clitoris, and kept on for an hour or more. In most cases, I have seen in a few days a great improvement in the appearance and disposition of the patient.

I am, etc.,

JAMES ELLIS, M.D.

St. Luke's Hospital, Old Street, February 1868.

JOURNALS WANTED.—Full price will be given for one complete set of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for 1866, and two sets of the JOURNAL for 1867. Gentlemen having these for disposal will oblige by communicating, by letter, with Dr. Henry, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

INFIRMARY REGULATIONS.

Sir,—I feel it to be my duty, in the interests of an honourable and liberal profession, to make you acquainted with the fact that a so-called "infirmary" is about to be opened here, and that the contemplated rules, which have been submitted to me, are so completely at variance with our received opinions as to what the regulations of a medical charity ought to be, that, although I have scarcely time to touch upon the subject, I must ask your kind indulgence for a few criticisms upon them. Dr. Waring, in his admirable little work upon cottage hospitals, says, "in starting it is desirable to commence with a public meeting, at which the subject may be freely discussed;" but here this good advice has been ignored, and the consequence has been that a number of rules will be proposed for adoption at a meeting of governors, which, if criticised in accordance with modern and enlightened views as to the constitution of medical charities, might not unfairly be said to have in view the retention of obsolete and effete laws as to the admission of patients, and the management of the institution; the undue conservation of medical influence, and the employment of the machinery of a public charity for other ends than the real good of the public.

I will not trouble you, Sir, with any of the criticisms which I have found it necessary to make in another form on many of the general rules; but I will pass hurriedly to the part relating to medical officers. In doing so, I cannot restrain the expression of my surprise that the medical profession contains among its members those who can be found to sanction such laws, and I suppose that this circumstance is attributable rather to want of care and thought than to the absence of right views on the subject.

This little "infirmary," with six beds for the general public, and six for domestic servants, is to have eight medical officers to begin with, and yet no vacancy is to be declared till the number is reduced to three. This is taking time by the forelock with a vengeance. It is a bran-new method of choking medical progress in a particular charity for thirty or forty years, of making things pleasant to a coterie of medical friends, and of stopping the path against dangerous rivals in this generation. I feel sure, Sir, that a statement of this fact has only to be forwarded to your valuable JOURNAL, in order to meet with the indignant condemnation of every right-minded member of our Association, as well as of the profession at large—a little hospital to have a staff large enough for two hundred and fifty beds or more, and as it becomes larger and larger the staff to become less and less. How is such a thing to be fittingly described? One of the laws enacts that a properly qualified man shall reside three years in Richmond before he be eligible for election. I never knew that the air of Richmond had any peculiar effect on the mind. Taking a wide view of well-known facts during the last two centuries, I should have rather anticipated that the reverse effect would be the case. I suppose that, if Mr. Paget had lived in Richmond two and a-half years, and a vacancy occurred on this institution, he would be ineligible. Although not joining in the wholesale condemnation of the privileged system of admission to hospitals, I feel bound to say that in these rules that system stands prominently forth in all the worst features in which it is capable of being exhibited. The laws declare that even accidents must obtain letters of recommendation; and one of them implies, in the most distinct manner, that even poor creatures, labouring under violent inflammation or other acute disease, must be "properly recommended." Is there no humane man at Richmond or Twickenham who will stand forth with becoming spirit, and declare to his poor sick brethren that "the quality of mercy is not strained?"

It would be needless for me to revive in your pages the oft-debated question as to whether the medical staff ought to be on the Committee of Management. There being eight medical officers to this little charity, it is easy to observe that, as law so contemplates they shall have a seat at the board, this implies the government of the hospital by the gentlemen who are supposed to carry out the views of the managing body. I believe, however, I am not singular in thinking that the true principle is,—let the medical men have the greatest power, *quoad* the admission of patients and the medical labour of the charity, but no power at all as general administrators and legislators; and do not allow them to be on any committee whatever connected with the general working of the hospital. The painful necessity for these and my former remarks becomes more apparent, when I mention that the Honorary Secretary is to hold the office of medical officer as well as member of the committee, and that the rules recommend that he should "preside over the admission of patients," "assist at committees," and "sign the advertisements"! Now, in my opinion, any medical man who will undertake the duties of Honorary Secretary, and do what this official is going to do under the laws, is doing that which, as a member of our profession, he should scrupulously abstain from doing.

One more remark, and I have done. Some of the laws are designed to give the medical officers the power to prevent any person whatever—even the governors, from looking at the wards or cases. Who could have believed the tone of these laws possible in 1868? Men of science court publicity, and willingly open their

I ask you, Sir, to give insertion to these remarks, in the earnest hope that this and other institutions about to be established may be induced to give more mature consideration to the framing of rules for their guidance in accordance with the reports that we have recently received from the able pens of Holmes, Bristowe, and others on this subject.

I am, etc.,

WM. ANDERSON, M.D.

Richmond, Surrey, January, 1868.

J. N. (Hull).—Undergraduates are not expected to appear in academical costume at the preliminary scientific examination for M.B. degree at the London University.

Sir,—As a member of the British Medical Association, I write to ask whether the L.K.Q.C.P. Ireland by exam. entitles a man to put M.D. at the end of his name, and call himself a physician, and practise as such in England? Also, whether the L.R.C.P. Edin. entitles a man to do the same, and call himself Dr.?

Brewood, Stafford, February 1868.

I am, etc.,

AN ENQUIRER.

*. He is entitled to call himself Physician; and by courtesy he may be styled Doctor. He is not entitled to add M.D. to his name.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest:—The Melbourne Argus, December 19th, 1867; The Bristol Western Daily Press, February 15th; The Saturday Bristol Times and Mirror, February 15th; The Bury and Norwich Post and Suffolk Herald, February 18th; The Scotsman, February 18th;

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.

AN ACTUARY.—The medium duration of life is in Russia about 21 years; in Prussia, 29; in Switzerland, 34; in France, 35; in Belgium, 36; and in England 38 years.

"**SALMO ESOX.**"—There is the skeleton of a gigantic trout in the Museum of the College of Surgeons; it was caught in the Thame, at Drayton Manor, and weighed 22 lbs. The late Sir Robert Peel, a trustee of the museum, was the donor.

Dr. LEONARD.—The building has just been demolished. You may look in vain for that which "seemed to the distant eye a gilded pile," which, towering above the houses, announced the great emporium of learning and of licensing. The suppressed edition of Lawrence's Lectures was dated from the "College of Physicians"; and, until recently, his brass plate might be seen let into the stone pillar at the building in Warwick Lane.

A REJECTED CANDIDATE.—Unless you succeed in passing in April next, you will be required to undergo an examination in medicine at the College, or to obtain a medical qualification at a recognised institution. Your surgical diploma will be withheld until you have complied with this regulation.

A MEMBER.—Professor Clark will not commence his lectures until the close of the course now being delivered by Professor Huxley. They will be published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL by permission of the lecturer.

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

Mr. H. N. Edwards, Shrewsbury (with enclosure); Dr. W. Banks Hay, Hull; Dr. E. T. R. Tennison, London (with enclosure); Dr. Sieveking, London (with enclosure); Mr. T. Annandale, Edinburgh (with enclosure); Dr. W. V. Bird, Bootle (with enclosure); The Registrar-General of England (with enclosure); The Registrar-General of Ireland (with enclosure); Dr. John Murray, London (with enclosure); The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall (with enclosure); Mr. T. M. Stone, London (with enclosure); Dr. Finch, Charlton; Dr. Galton, London (with enclosure); Dr. Radford, Manchester; Mr. H. Brown, London; Mr. Erichsen, London (with enclosure); Dr. Edmunds, London; Mr. Berkeley Hill, London (with enclosure); Dr. Lory Marsh, Nottingham (with enclosure); Mr. Macpherson, Birmingham (with enclosure); Dr. A. P. Stewart, London; Mr. M. Thomas, London; Mr. W. G. Sutcliffe, London; Mr. Baxter Langley, London (with enclosure); Dr. T. M. Rooke, Cheltenham; Dr. Gwyther, Manchester; Dr. L. Sedgwick, London (with enclosure); Mr. T. A. Roberts, Lynton; Mr. Wm. Copney, London (with enclosure); Dr. Henry Simpson, Manchester (with enclosure); Dr. J. Mackesy, Waterford; Mr. J. Sampson Gamgee, Birmingham (with enclosure); Mr. W. G. L. Ingram, Midhurst; The Honorary Secretary of the Obstetrical Society (with enclosure); Dr. Eben Watson, Glasgow (with enclosure); Mr. T. Holmes, London (with enclosure); Mr. E. Crossman, Hambrook (with enclosure); Dr. Mapother, Dublin; Mr. T. H. Bartleet, Birmingham (with enclosure); Mr. G. Terry, Mells; Mr. Harris, Mildenhall (with enclosure); Dr. R. M. Fawcett, Cambridge (with enclosure); Dr. Latham, Cambridge; Dr. F. J. Brown, Rochester (with enclosure); Dr. G. M. Humphry, Cambridge; Mr. E. Chapman, Oxford; Mr. Callender, London (with enclosure); Dr. Maclean, Southampton; Dr. Fleming, Birmingham; Mr. C. Jeaffreson, London (with enclosure); Mr. Milner Moore, London; Mr. Haynes Walton, London (with enclosure); The Honorary Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society (with enclosure); Mr. Langston Parker, Birmingham (with enclosure); Mr. James Wookey, Barnet; A Travelled Physician; Dr. Gamgee, Edinburgh; Mr. Garraway, Faversham (with enclosure); Mr. P. Le Neve Foster, London; Dr. Walker, Birkenhead; Worcestershire Medical Society; London Student; Mr. Spencer Wells, London (with enclosure); Dr. Smiles, London; Dr. Percy Leslie, Birmingham (with enclosure); Mr. T. Watkin Williams, Birmingham (with enclosure); Dr. Carr, Blackheath (with enclosure); Dr. Bristowe, London; Mr. Spence, Edinburgh; Mr. St. George Mivart, London (with enclosure); Dr. Dyce Duckworth, London; Dr. Farquharson, Coldstream Guards' Hospital; Dr. W. B. Herapath, Bristol; Mr. J. L. Newton, Isleham, Cambridgeshire; Dr. William Scott, Aughnacloy, Ireland; Mr. Terry, Northampton; Mr. T. A. Vesey, Rostrevor; Mr. Orton, Netley; and Dr. Henry Barnes, Carlisle.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Transactions of the Ethnological Society of London. Vol. vi. New Series. London: 1868.

The Indian Annals of Medical Science. No. 23. Calcutta: 1868.

Annual Report and Rules of the Hambrook Village Hospital, January 1868.

Report of the Thirty-second Annual Meeting of the Canterbury Dispensary, 1868.