

## THE PROTOXIDE OF NITROGEN AS AN ANÆSTHETIC.

ON Wednesday last, Mr. Coleman administered the protoxide of nitrogen as an anæsthetic at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in several cases:—1. A boy about twelve, who took it twice (with an interval of a few minutes) whilst two tendons were divided (Mr. Willett); 2. A boy about eleven, who had a large abscess in the groin freely opened (Mr. Paget); 3. An adult male, who had two long cuts made in the leg for a somewhat deep sinus (Mr. Paget). In each case, the remedy acted perfectly; but the characteristic blueness and pallor of the face, to which we drew attention at the first, was very marked. Mr. Paget has favoured us with the following opinion, as the result of his observation. "After seeing Mr. Coleman give the nitrous oxide at St. Bartholomew's, I cannot doubt its sufficiency for procuring total insensibility to the pain of short operations. The appearance of asphyxia is alarming; but it is so brief, that one may believe that, even if it were more profound, it might do no harm. The question of danger, however, can only be decided by the results of some thousands of cases. There is certainly great need of improving the means of administration. With an apparatus so cumbrous as that which Mr. Coleman has to use, it would be impossible to employ the nitrous oxide largely in general practice." We indicated at the outset the possibility of overcoming this difficulty more completely than has hitherto been done by condensing the gas in a convenient and portable form. An accomplished chemist has, we learn, carried out this suggestion. He has, indeed, furnished us with the gas in a simply condensed and portable form, and will next week give us details of his method. On Thursday last, eight administrations were performed by the same gentleman at the Dental Hospital; in none of the cases was any pain felt.

### MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

At a meeting of this Society on April 13th, Mr. HUNT drew attention to the use of nitrous oxide as an anæsthetic, which had been urged upon the profession.—The PRESIDENT considered that nitrous oxide was no true anæsthetic, but an asphyxiating agent. It did not diffuse into the blood, but prevented the normal oxygenation; its action upon animals was rapidly fatal. It could not be other than a dangerous agent, and its employment was a retrogression in science.—Mr. H. LEE asked why those agents which merely prevented or withheld respiration could of themselves prove fatal.—Dr. SANSOM greatly agreed with the President. Nitrous oxide had been formerly tried and found wanting; it was an asphyxiating agent, and no asphyxiating agent could be a mere negation; for whenever there was deficient oxygenation of blood there was always accumulation of the products of disintegration which were in themselves poisons. Nitrous oxide was greatly inferior to chloroform, both as to its manageability and its prospects of safety.

### PHYSICAL CHARACTERS OF PROTOXIDE OF NITROGEN.

SIR,—Dr. Richardson, whose remarks made at the Medical Society of London are given in the medical journals, has fallen into a slight physical error concerning the diffusion of gases. This error (perhaps it ought to be called an oversight) is a very excusable one, but may nevertheless occasion a good deal of bad theory concerning the biological action of protoxide of nitrogen.

It is contained in the following extract, which I quote from the *Medical Times and Gazette*. "Consequently, seeing that nitrous oxide and carbonic acid, having the same density and the same diffusibility, will not change places, carbonic acid will become accumulated in the system to an enormous extent." In fact, a theory of the physiological action of protoxide of nitrogen is constructed on the physical basis that if you had protoxide of nitrogen on one side of a porous septum and carbonic acid on the other there would be no diffusion.

These gases, however, would diffuse. The effect of the specific gravity being equal is, that *exactly as much* protoxide of nitrogen would pass through in one direction as carbonic acid would pass through in the other direction. There would be mutual diffusion, without alteration in the relative volumes on either side of the septum. The fact of the exact equality between the specific gravity of protoxide of nitrogen and carbonic acid does not occasion any special retardation in the carrying

off of carbonic acid by diffusion into a stream or atmosphere of protoxide of nitrogen, and any biological theory founded on such a basis must fall to the ground. I am, etc.,

London Institution, April 1868.

J. ALFRED WANKLYN.

### ACTION OF NITROUS OXIDE.

SIR,—If the researches of Dr. Hermann, noticed in your article of this week under the head of "Physiological Action of Nitrous and Nitric Oxides", be trustworthy—viz., that nitrous oxide enters and leaves the blood as such, that is, without undergoing any change whatever—and it is the view I should myself, judging from its physiological effects alone, adopt,—then the trouble, difficulty, and expense of procuring it and transporting it about for anæsthetic purposes will prove very minor considerations. It is obviously evident that, by a very simple mechanical and chemical arrangement, the same gas may be employed repeatedly. The products of expiration, now wasted, need only to be passed through a solution of caustic potash, and through pure water, or perhaps a weak acid, and returned to the receiver whence the gas was inspired. The other products of respiration, not soluble in the above, are too small in quantity, probably, to in any way affect the repeated breathing of the nitrous oxide over again. I need hardly say I am at once taking the proper steps for investigating so simple a suggestion as the above. I am, etc.,

ALFRED COLEMAN.

April 1868.

\*\*\* The difficulties of separating the expired gas from the products of respiration are greater than Mr. Coleman seems to suppose; but we have no doubt that the trouble of making and storing the gas will both be effectually overcome by the means which we originally suggested. The condensation of the gas is by no means difficult, although a good deal of nonsense has been written, implying that it is costly and dangerous. Its manufacture, in proper hands, is simple and inexpensive; and before long, if the protoxide of nitrogen be so useful for dental and other short operations, as there is now reason to believe, and should it prove to be free from danger, we shall expect to see arrangements made for the sale of the condensed gas in properly constructed vessels, just as condensed oxygen is furnished by Mr. Barth to all who choose to use it.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE next Ordinary Meeting of this Branch will be held at the rooms of the Medical Society of London, 32A, George Street, Hanover Square, on Friday, May 15th, at 8 P.M., when Dr. HENRY will read a paper on "The Education of the General Practitioner of Medicine."

A. P. STEWART, M.D., } *Honorary*  
ALEXANDER HENRY, M.D., } *Secretaries.*

London, April 23rd, 1868.

### BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE fifth ordinary meeting of the session was held (for the first time) at the new Royal Hotel, College Green, Bristol, on Thursday evening, April 16th; R. W. COE, Esq., F.R.C.S., President, in the Chair. There were also present more than sixty members and fifteen visitors.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and a ballot taken for the three following gentlemen, who were duly elected members of the Association and this Branch:—David Bernard, Esq., Bristol; Theodore Davis, M.D., F.R.C.S., Clevedon; and James Knill, Esq., Lechlade. Two new members were proposed, and will be balloted for at the next meeting.

*Papers.*—1. Dr. SYMONDS read an interesting paper entitled Brief Therapeutic Memoranda. The PRESIDENT proposed a vote of thanks, which Mr. GREEN seconded; at the same time requesting Dr. Symonds to permit the publication of his paper, which being assented to, the vote was carried by acclamation.

2. Dr. BEDDOE read a paper on the Management of Diet in Disease. This provoked a long and animated discussion, in which Drs. Symonds, Herapath, Budd, E. L. Fox, Lownds, and Messrs. Green, Collins, Smith, Davies, H. Grace, Joseph Parsons, E. Bush, and others, took part. The discussion turned chiefly on the dietetic treatment of fever. Mr. Green observed that wine and beef-tea acted as irritants where diarrhoea existed with fever, while arrow-root and brandy were more digestible. Dr. Budd recommended, in all cases of fever, pure milk and pure wheaten flour, and brandy. The admixture of flour with milk

prevents its curdling in wavy masses, and makes it more flocculent and easily assimilable. Then brandy and eggs with warm milk form a light nutritious diet as convalescence improves. Dr. Herapath recommended the use of the Australian essence of beef, as containing more solid matter, and being more economical. The country practitioners described the difficulties under which they labour in procuring milk at all, and the impossibility of obtaining it in such quantities as recommended.

3. Mr. PRICHARD read a case of Antiphlogistic Treatment, which caused much amusement.

The proceedings terminated with a capital supper in the large dining-hall.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

### *Union of the Medical Schools in Birmingham.*

OUR Birmingham correspondent writes:—The two Medical Schools are now united, and Queen's College is the one Medical School for Birmingham. Sydenham College was formally dissolved on April 14th; and, on April 21st, the Council of Queen's College appointed professors to the various chairs. The list recommended by a Subcommittee, and which has appeared in your columns, was adhered to, with the addition of Mr. Vose Solomon to a new Chair of Ophthalmic Surgery.

### *The Royal Visit to Dublin.*

OUR Dublin correspondent writes:—The Senate of the Dublin University on Tuesday conferred the degree of LL.D. on His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on the Duke of Cambridge, and on Lord Abercorn. The Latin Oration was delivered by Professor Webb.—A request having been made by the authorities of one Dublin hospital, that her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales would visit it, she intimated that she did not feel equal to the task of ascending the flights of stairs which lead to the wards. The Princess, however, appears in good health and very active, and feelings of sincere gratification at her restoration to health mingle with the most loyal and devoted wishes in the breasts of every one who has beheld her Highness on this her first visit to Ireland.

### *The New Infirmary—Important Public Meeting—The General Court of the University—The Medico-Chirurgical Society—The Principalship of the University—Professor Goodsir.*

OUR Edinburgh correspondent writes: On Friday, April 17th, one of the most influential meetings ever held in Edinburgh took place in the Music Hall, for the purpose of inaugurating a fund to be raised for the rebuilding of the medical hospital. Built 130 years ago, the medical department of our Royal Infirmary has long been recognised as unsuited to the requirements of the present day; and the medical visitor to its wards must often have been surprised that no attempt had been made to erect in the place of the old medical hospital one more in accordance with our modern ideas.\* A feeling of affection and veneration for the institution which has played so useful and honourable a part in the history of the medical school of Edinburgh, whose wards are hallowed by the remembrance that within them Cullen, Gregory, and Alison studied and taught, may lead some to regret that the old-fashioned building, with its low and dreary, and badly ventilated wards, should at last be doomed to destruction. When, however, we consider that the old hospital is in many respects unsuited for its functions as an establishment for the treatment of disease, and for the clinical instruction of the student, we cannot fail to rejoice that the citizens of Edinburgh have taken up with vigour a movement which at once demonstrates their generosity and benevolence, and testifies how warm an interest they take in our medical school.

\* A small hired house was opened for receiving sick poor on August 6th, 1729; and, after some years' trial, the managers represented the advantages of such a hospital in an humble petition to His Majesty, who was graciously pleased to grant a charter, dated August 25th, 1736. The foundation-stone of the old medical hospital was laid on August 2nd, 1738. For these details I am indebted to Mr. Peter Bell, Clerk to the Incorporation.

The Royal Infirmary is situated in Infirmary Street, a short street which runs off at right angles from the North Bridge, at a point very nearly opposite to the University. At the bottom of Infirmary Street is the new surgical hospital, which was rebuilt in the year 1853; on the right side of the street is the old pile of buildings constituting the medical hospital, with its quaint façade, adorned by a rude statue of George II, and bearing the two appropriate verses—"I was naked and ye clothed me;" "I was sick and ye visited me." Between the front of the University and the Royal Infirmary is situated a row of houses and shops, which extend from Infirmary Street on the one side, to Drummond Street on the other, and which prevents the Infirmary being seen by any one standing at the University gates. The managers of the Infirmary have long been alive to the fact that the medical hospital must be rebuilt, and have for some time past been considering whether the new hospital should occupy the site of the old one, or whether an attempt should not be made to move the new building to the outskirts of the town. The former course has now been fixed upon; in addition, however, to rebuilding the medical hospital, it has been determined to remove the whole of the buildings which stand between it and the University, thus adding very greatly to the amenity of this part of the town, and tending to make the site of the Royal Infirmary more healthy, by allowing a far greater circulation of air around it than is now possible.

To effect all these objects a sum of £100,000 is required. A building fund, which amounts to £40,000, already exists, and the managers have for some time past been exerting every effort to collect subscriptions. The public meeting of Friday last was held for the purpose of announcing the amount of the subscriptions already received, and of giving fresh impetus to the movement. The Lord Provost occupied the chair, and almost the whole of our influential citizens testified, by their presence, their good-will in the work. Before twelve o'clock of the day of the meeting (April 17th), the sum of £24,785 had been subscribed, of which £11,000 had been given in eleven subscriptions of £1,000 each. During the meeting the sum was made up to £26,000; and it appears from the *Scotsman* of this date, that since then the subscriptions received average £1,000 a day. The College of Physicians of Edinburgh headed the subscription list with a donation of £1,000. The unexampled alacrity with which the appeal of the managers of the infirmary has been met, is indeed a striking tribute to the charity of the citizens of Edinburgh, and appears the more remarkable when we consider that this city cannot vie with many of our large commercial towns in respect to the wealth of its inhabitants.

The individual donors, moreover, are not enticed by the promises of any privilege. In the Royal Infirmary, it has always been a rule to entrust the admission of all cases to the medical and surgical officers of the institution—a system which contrasts favourably with that elsewhere pursued, with the frequent result, as Professor Spence appropriately remarked, "that in many cases the poor man who had no friends and knew no subscriber or governor, but was yet a very necessitous case, was left very much in the position of the man at the Pool of Bethesda, who, when the water was troubled, had no one to help him into it."

Yesterday the half-yearly meeting of the General Council of the University took place. In addition to other important business, the Council agreed to petition Parliament to grant two representatives in the House of Commons to the Scotch Universities. The propriety of introducing natural science into the curriculum of Arts was discussed, and was fully recognised by all who spoke; and a resolution to this effect was passed.

At the last meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, Dr. Sanders read an interesting paper on the variability in the intensity of cardiac murmurs, and drew attention to the fact that some murmurs, but in particular presystolic mitral murmurs, are exceedingly liable to vary in intensity from time to time, and in varying conditions of the patient. Dr. John Duncan read the account of an interesting case of epilepsy occurring in a little boy, in which the affection, which had lasted for some years, disappeared after the stone had been removed by the operation of lithotomy.

We are still quite in the dark as to the Principalship. It appears that the contest is now limited to Sir James Y. Simpson and Sir Alexander Grant. The curators propose holding a meeting on Thursday, May 7th, to fix the day of election.

The Messrs. Black have in the press two volumes containing the posthumous works of the late Professor John Goodsir. These volumes will, I believe, include notes of two series of lectures—one on the place which man occupies in creation, the other on comparative anatomy. They will also contain a memoir of Goodsir, by Dr. Lonsdale of Carlisle.

Allusion was made to the MEDICAL ACTS AMENDMENT BILL prepared by the General Medical Council, and shortly to be submitted to Parliament, by which the privileges of colonial graduates and practitioners would be extended, so that it seemed unfair that the rights of the graduates and practitioners of the mother country should be restricted as proposed by the present Bill. It was the unanimous opinion of the Committee that this measure ought not to be retrospective in its action, but that every gentleman at present on the *Register* should have his right secured to him of practising in any part of the British empire.

On the motion of Dr. HOLMAN, seconded by Dr. PAUL, it was resolved—

“That a deputation be appointed to wait upon the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, and to urge upon his grace either to withdraw the Medical Practitioners (Colonies) Bill, or to frame its provisions in consonance with the clauses relating to colonial graduates and practitioners introduced by Government into the Medical Acts Amendment Bill.”

The POOR RELIEF BILL was considered; and a general opinion was expressed that the great defect in the Poor-law system of the country was the total absence of any adequate medical inspection and supervision, and of the imperfect representation of medical interests in the Poor-law Board. Mr. ERNEST HART proposed, Mr. W. MARTIN seconded, and it was resolved—

“That the Earl of Devon be requested to receive a deputation from this Committee, to urge the necessity of medical and sanitary inspection of workhouses; and that the Honorary Secretary make arrangements for having evidence on the point submitted to the Select Committee of Lords on the Poor Relief Bill.”

It was further resolved—“That Mr. Ernest Hart be requested to represent this Committee in giving evidence before the Select Committee.”

Members of the Association and Poor-law Medical Service are requested to communicate their views to Mr. Hart, for his information.

MR. GREGORY will on Monday, April 27th, ask the Chief Secretary for Ireland, whether it is the intention of the Irish Government to instruct the constabulary in the case of any death in Ireland from small-pox caused by inoculation, to endeavour to procure an inquest to be held, in order that evidence may be obtained which may lead to a conviction of the inoculator for manslaughter, or for an offence against the Vaccination Act.

## UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

THE Public Meeting of the Senate for the Admission of Graduates to the Degrees awarded in the course of the year 1867-68, will be held on Wednesday, May 13th. The Presentation will take place at Burlington House, Piccadilly, on Wednesday, May 13th, at 2 P.M.

### THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.

THE Earl of Mayo, Chief Secretary for Ireland, received a deputation from the Convocation of the Queen's University, last Monday, on the subject of representation under the Irish Reform Bill. Vice-Chancellor Brady, Sir R. Kane, President Berwick, Mr. Ross, Dr. Mapother, Mr. Stoney, Mr. Wilson, and other graduates attended. It was urged that all other universities in the kingdom, save that of Durham, were, or were about to be, represented, and that in the Reform Bill, 1866, a member had been proposed. If all members of convocation were admitted to the franchise they would now number 777. Lord Mayo stated that the constituency in the older universities alone consisted of the Masters of Arts and Doctors. If this be determined on in the case of the Queen's University, a large majority of the electors will be Doctors of Medicine. In the constituency of the London University, under the Reform Act, Doctors and Masters have votes, and Bachelors, after the expiration of two years. The Chief Secretary expressed himself as favourably disposed to the proposal, but stated that the granting of a representative could be only arranged by the disfranchisement or grouping of other constituencies in Ireland.

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

MERTON COLLEGE, APRIL 22ND.—The following elections to Natural Science Scholarships have this day taken place: Postmastership (Scholarship) value £80 per annum, tenable for five years—Mr. W. W. Fisher, Worcester College, Oxford. Jackson Scholarship, value £60 per annum, tenable for five years—Mr. C. Childs, Corpus Christi, Oxford, Exhibitions—value £25 per annum, tenable for three years—Mr. J. P. Earwater, Pembroke College, Cambridge, Mr. Macdonald, St. Mary Hall, Oxford. There were fifteen candidates.

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

### METROPOLITAN POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION.

A QUARTERLY meeting of this Association will be held at the Ship Hotel, Charing Cross, on Wednesday, the 29th instant, at 7.30 P.M. After the Report of the Council, Dr. Rogers, the President, will tender his resignation, and make a statement, which may be expected to be interesting, as it will be the first opportunity he has had of referring to his own case since his compulsory resignation by the Poor-law Board. The meeting will be called upon to elect a new President, and to consider the proposed basis for the equalisation of the salaries of the medical officers of the London district; the general order of the Poor-law Board, imposing additional duties on workhouse medical officers; and the circular letter of the Board (April 2nd, 1868), relating to the employment by medical officers of assistants without legal qualification, etc. There can be no doubt as to the importance of these subjects, and we hope to see a large attendance of the medical officers and their friends.

### COCKERMOUTH BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

WE have watched, through the kindness of correspondents who have transmitted to us the local papers and other documents, the progress of the attack made by a Mr. Fletcher of Maryport upon Dr. Pearson, in respect to the case of a poor man who died of typhoid fever, being an out-door pauper who refused to come into the house. We are of opinion that Dr. Joseph Pearson is entirely exonerated from all blame, and are happy to see that the Poor-law Board is of the same opinion. Dr. Pearson points out—“The man Macoll was attended up to the day of his death by the surgeon of the club of which he was a member, and on the occasion of each of my visits he distinctly told me that he was so attended. I could not force my advice and medicine upon him, though he was a pauper. The only reason I saw him was, because the relieving-officer will not, in any case, grant relief without my certificate.”

### CAMBRIDGE UNION: RESIGNATION OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER.

A CAMBRIDGE correspondent writes:—“At the weekly meeting of the Cambridge Board of Guardians on Wednesday last, the differences so long existing between them and their medical officer (Dr. Ransom) were closed by a letter from the Poor-Law Board calling upon Dr. Ransom to resign. The Poor-Law Board, in their letter, state that they had not promised Dr. Ransom an investigation, as he alleged, by having a public inquiry. Whatever might be the result, say the Poor-Law Board, of an inquiry, it would not materially affect their decision on the question of the expediency of your continuance in the office of medical officer. The Board also consider that there is no imputation upon Dr. Ransom's moral character, nor upon his conduct as regards attendance upon the sick poor. The Board considered Dr. Ransom liable for censure for having, without notice, declined to sanction entries in the medical relief book; and secondly, for having addressed a letter to the newspapers reflecting upon the guardians. The Board consider, under the circumstances, that for Dr. Ransom to continue in office would be inconsistent with the interest of the public service and the due management of the workhouse. The Poor-Law Board requested Dr. Ransom to place in the hands of the guardians his resignation of medical officer of the workhouse. A very painful and unsatisfactory conclusion.

SIR,—As you are taking considerable pains and trouble in improving the condition of country workhouses, I beg to state, from observations of my own, based on the result of many years' experience, I have come to the conclusion that it is absolutely necessary for the comfort of the patients in these large infirmaries that paid nurses should be appointed; also, that all medicines should be provided by the guardians, and a dispenser appointed for the parish generally; that, if practicable, medical men should be appointed at a fair remuneration, without private practice, and that a certain pension should be given in every case, paid out of the Consolidated Fund, after a certain number of years' servitude, and that on a graduated scale. I am quite certain that the interests both of the poor and of the medical officers require attending to in a better manner than at present.

Anglesey, near Gosport, March 1868.

I am, etc.,  
F. J. LOWES, M.D.

THE BILLERICAY UNION.—We have carefully perused the papers forwarded to us by Mr. Baker of Brentwood. Mr. Baker seems to have been treated with great injustice by his guardians, and by Sir John Walsham, who countenanced his dismissal without due and open inquiry into the merits of his contention with the guardians, and who sanctioned proceedings of the harshest character upon purely technical grounds. In this stage of the proceedings, the only resort is to Parliament; and we have placed the papers in the hands of a member of the House of Commons, in the hope that he may be able to deal with the matter there.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen passed their primary examinations in anatomy and physiology, at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on April 16th; and, when eligible, will be admitted to the pass examination:—

T. G. Preston, Alfred Baker, John Hopkins, Charles Jervis, and R. B. Anderson (Students of St. Mary's Hospital); E. B. Evans, Alfred Moor, A. W. Smith, and W. A. Marsh (of Guy's Hospital); Thomas May, F. W. E. Dawson, and A. W. M'Donogh (of the Westminster Hospital); H. C. Noad, E. G. Barnes, and C. L. Vasey (of St. George's Hospital); G. Le H. Rowland, R. F. Phibbs and William Fear (of King's College); H. W. Furnivall and J. W. Anningson (of the Manchester School); Vincent Stone and W. H. Edwards (of St. Bartholomew's Hospital); P. J. Cremen (of Dublin); M. H. Payne (of University College); Frank Cufaude (of Edinburgh); C. H. Johnson (of Hull); Conrad Fitzgerald (of Bristol); W. M. Lytleton (of New York and King's College); L. D. H. Russell (of Toronto, New York, and University College).

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 April 21st:—

Bradley, George, Liverpool (Guy's)  
Clouting, J. R., Shipham, Norfolk (London)  
Coombe, R. G., Burnham, Essex (Guy's)  
England, George, Dudley (Birmingham School)  
Godson, Clement, Barnet (St. Bartholomew's)  
Green, John, Dudley (Birmingham School)  
Higgins, Charles, Hambledon, Hants (Guy's)  
Inches, P. R., M.D. New York, St. John's, New Brunswick, Canada (New York and King's College)  
Inglis, W. W., L.S.A., Brixton Hill (St. Thomas's)  
Jackson, W. F. M., Smethwick, near Birmingham (Birmingham School)  
Jay, H. M., Chippenham, Wilts (St. Bartholomew's)  
Lake, G. P., Leamington (St. George's)  
Rayner, Edwin, Stockport (Paris and University College)  
Ridge, J. J., L.R.C.P. B.Sc. and B.A. Lond., Horslydown (St. Thomas's)  
Ross, J. H., L.S.A., Brighton (Guy's)  
Rowling, C. E., Murrurundi, New South Wales (King's College)  
Sells, C. J., L.S.A., Guildford (Guy's)  
Sharp, J. A., Maidstone, Kent (Guy's)  
Snow, H. L., St. Asaph, North Wales (Birmingham School)  
Swain, Edward, L.S.A., Long Clawson, Leicestershire (Westminster)  
Taylor, Frederick, Kennington (Guy's)  
Turner, G. E. W., Stockport, Cheshire (Guy's)  
Waters, A. J. G., Birmingham (Birmingham School)

It is stated that only three out of the twenty-six candidates failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Court of Examiners, and were consequently referred to their hospital studies for the full period of 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, April 16th, 1868.

Carr, John, Scarborough  
Desvignes, Peter Hubert, Lewisham  
Grant, Bernard John Mark, Isle of Dogs  
Lock, John Griffith, Tenby, South Wales  
McGior, Alexander, Weaverham, Cheshire  
Page, Edward Sutton, Solihull, near Birmingham  
Smith, Thomas Somerville, Sittingbourne

At the same Court, the following passed the first examination:—  
Robinson, Tom, London Hospital

### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are declared:—

BARNET UNION, Herts—Medical Officer for District No. 5.  
BIRMINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY—Resident Physician and Secretary.  
BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY—Surgeon.  
BRITISH LYING-IN HOSPITAL, Endell Street—Two Physicians.  
CAVAN UNION—Medical Officer for the Ballyhaise Dispensary District.  
CHELSEA, BROMPTON, and BELGRAVE DISPENSARY—Physician.  
CLAREMORRIS UNION, co. Mayo—Medical Officer for the Ballindine Dispensary District.  
COOMBE LYING-IN HOSPITAL, Dublin—Resident Apothecary.  
DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON—Assistant Dental Surgeon.  
DOVER HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY—Surgeon.  
DUBLIN, TRINITY COLLEGE—King's Professor of the Practice of Medicine.  
DUDLEY DISPENSARY—Resident Medical Officer.  
EARLSWOOD ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS—Medical Superintendent.  
GLAMORGANSHIRE and MONMOUTHSHIRE INFIRMARY and DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon.  
GLOUCESTER GENERAL INFIRMARY—Assistant-Physician and Assistant-Surgeon.  
KING AND QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN IRELAND—King's Professor of the Practice of Medicine.  
LOCHBROOM—Parochial Medical Officer.  
MANCHESTER EYE HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon and Secretary.  
NEWTOWNLIMAVADY UNION, co. Londonderry—Medical Officer for the Bellefleur Dispensary District.  
NORTH DUBLIN UNION—Medical Officer for the Coolock and Drumcondra Dispensary District.  
NORTHERN INFIRMARY, Inverness—House-Surgeon and Apothecary.

PORTPATRICK, Wigtonshire—Parochial Medical Officer.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS—Professor of Anatomy.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—Hunterian Professor of Comparative Anatomy and Physiology.

ROYAL GENERAL DISPENSARY, Bartholomew Close—Physician and Assistant-Physician.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, Paddington—Assistant Dental Surgeon.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, Manchester—Surgeon.

SHEFFIELD GENERAL INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon.

SLIGO UNION—Medical Officer for the Carney Dispensary District.

SOMERSET COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM, Wells—Assistant Medical Officer.

THRAPSTON UNION, Northamptonshire—Medical Officer for E. District.

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

BARNES, Henry, M.D., appointed Medical Inspector of Army Recruits for Carlisle and neighbourhood.

\*CURRIE, Thomas, L.R.C.P.E., Amble, appointed Medical Officer for the Warkworth District of the Alnwick Union, *vice* Dr. Turnbull, resigned.

HEDGES, J. H., Esq., elected House-Surgeon to the Bucks Infirmary, Aylesbury.

\*MASON, F., Esq., appointed Surgeon to the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road.

\*MEDWIN, A. G., M.D., appointed Dental Surgeon to the Royal Kent Dispensary.

\*THORNE, R. Thorne, M.B., appointed Physician to the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road.

YEO, J. Burney, Esq., appointed Lecturer on Animal Physiology in King's College (the department of the evening classes), in the place of Dr. John Harley, who has resigned.

### BIRTHS.

BROSTER.—On April 5th, at Woolwich, the wife of Edward Brereton Broster, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon R.N., of a daughter.

GOGARTY.—On April 4th, at Limerick, the wife of Henry A. Gogarty, M.B., 52nd Regiment, of a son.

DIVER.—On April 13th, at Warrington, Surrey, the wife of E. Diver, M.D. of a son.

DUNCAN.—On April 7th, at Hyères, France, the wife of P. C. Duncan, M.D., of a daughter.

HAMILTON.—On April 8th, at Curryfree, Londonderry, the wife of William J. Hamilton, M.D., Surgeon H.M.S. *Warrior*, of a son.

HAMMOND.—On April 11th, at Ipswich, the wife of C. W. Hammond, M.D., of a son.

LICHTENBERG.—On April 15th, at Finsbury Square, the wife of George Lichtenberg, M.D., of a son.

MILLAR.—On April 5th, at Edinburgh, the wife of John Millar, M.D., of a daughter.

MONRO.—On April 11th, at Gloucester Street, Belgrave Road, the wife of James Monro, M.D., of Craiglockhart, N.B., of a son.

SCOTT.—On April 14th, at Southampton, the wife of Robert C. Scott, Esq., Surgeon R.N., of a son.

### MARRIAGES.

CRASKE, Christopher B., Esq., Surgeon-Major Madras Army, to Maud, second daughter of the late John BEADNELL, Esq., Barrister, of Tottenham, at St. Ann's, Hanger Lane, on April 14th.

DIBDIN, Stephen C., Esq., Admiralty, Somerset House, to Ellen, daughter of the late Robert MICKLEWRIGHT, M.D., of Ellesmere, at St. James's, Piccadilly, on April 16th.

HODDING, Matthias T., Esq., to Grace, eldest daughter of Arthur NOVERRE, Esq., Surgeon, of South Street, Park Lane, at Paddington, on April 16th.

HORNE, Edward Lawson, Esq., to Bessie, younger daughter of Matthew DENZLOE, Esq., Surgeon, at Allington, Bridport, on April 15th.

LOCKHART, James, Esq., Glasgow, to Bessie, eldest daughter of the late \*J. Ormiston M'WILLIAM, M.D., C.B., F.R.S., at East Teignmouth, on April 13th.

### DEATHS.

BRIGHAM.—On April 11th, at Lymm, near Warrington, Elizabeth, widow of \*Wm. Brigham, Esq., Surgeon.

HALLION, John W., Esq., Surgeon R.N., at Charrington Street, Oakley Square, aged 77, on April 13th.

HAVILAND.—On April 7th, at Cambridge, aged 77, Louisa, widow of John Haviland, M.D., late Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Cambridge.

YOUNG, Frank N. H., M.D., of Danbury, Connecticut, in New York, on March 17.

DR. NUGENT of Drogheda has been admitted a Fellow of the College of Surgeons.

PEPSINE.—Among the results of the application of science to the practice of medicine, none appear to promise more important benefits to those suffering from impaired natural functions than the introduction of pepsine, the digestive principle of the gastric juice, which, in a purified state, and mixed with some inert vegetable powder, or dissolved in wine, or made into a lozenge, forms a valuable and by no means disagreeable medicine. It appears that the use of this important medicinal agent is greatly increasing as the knowledge of its effects becomes more fully established and widely diffused. There are few medicines that afford so ready a means as this does of testing its efficacy. A few grains of it put into a wineglass with some water forms at once an artificial stomach, in which food may be digested; and in this way the relative values of different samples of pepsine may be determined. At a lecture that was delivered a short time ago at the Society of Arts by Dr. Letheby, an experiment of this sort was made, in which large quantities of animal fibrine were digested in bottles during the lecture, with English (Morson's) and also with French pepsine.—*Standard*.

## 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.—Medical Society of London, 8 P.M. A new Uterine Speculum will be exhibited; Mr. Henry Lee, "On a Case of Syphilis communicated to a Wet-nurse, and on Vaccino-Syphilitic Inoculation."—Zoological Society.

TUESDAY.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Douglas Powell, "On Tubercular Pneumothorax"; Sir G. D. Gibb, "Subglottic Gouty Disease of the Larynx."

WEDNESDAY.—Royal Institution.

FRIDAY.—Western Medical and Surgical Society of London, 8 P.M. For the Narration of Cases; Nomination of Officers for the ensuing Session.—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.

MR. TRISTRAM (Tunbridge Wells).—The numbers required shall be forwarded, as requested.

OWING to the great pressure on our space, the publication of the Analysis of the Expenditure of the Medical Council, Dr. Hughes Bennett's letter, with other letters and communications in type, is necessarily postponed.

ERRATUM.—The strength of solution of morphia used for hypodermic injections at the Middlesex Hospital is one grain to the fluid *drachm*, not to the fluid *ounce*, as printed in the JOURNAL of April 18th.

## A FREE HOSPITAL.

THE following paragraphs, from a local paper, speak for themselves to some extent. They will not, we believe, be considered satisfactory. The duties of "Director" require explanation; as does also the peculiar process described "as relinquishing the specific name of homœopathy, and retaining my position in connection with the institution as a duly registered M.D."

"*Evangelical Protestant Deaconesses' Institution: Girls' Industrial Orphan Home, Lower Tottenham: Bethesda Free Hospital.*—Sir: As the advertisement in your late impressions, in connection with the above institution, has given rise to misunderstanding in some quarters, I beg to state that my conviction of the importance of the hospital is so strong, that I prefer relinquishing the specific name of homœopathy, and retaining my position in connection with the institution as a duly registered M.D., rather than cause any impediment to its success; and that those gentlemen who, at my request, have accepted, or may accept, a position on the medical staff, will be at liberty to carry out their own views as regards medical treatment. "I am, sir, yours obediently,"

"Edmonton, April 4th, 1868." M. LASERON, M.D.

"*Bethesda Hospital.*—We have received the following communication from E. Hooper May, Esq. 'Tottenham, April 8th, 1868. Sir: As there appears some misapprehension among the medical practitioners of the neighbourhood, and possibly among some others, with respect to my connection with the free hospital at Tottenham, I beg to state through your columns that the institution is entirely unconnected with homœopathy, and that I have accepted the office of Honorary Surgeon, upon the distinct understanding that Dr. Laseron's name is not to appear on the medical staff, and that he shall in no way interfere in the medical treatment of the patients.'"

MR. A. RANSOME shall receive a private letter.

HONORARY MEDICAL SERVICES.—Mr. Sampson Gamgee has commenced a series of communications in the *Birmingham Post*, of which the text is that, "in the interests of science and of true charity, the existing system of honorary medical services is a sham." This subject was raised at the Midland Counties Branch by an elaborate paper by Dr. Percy Leslie. Only the great length of that paper has prevented its appearance in the pages of the JOURNAL. We hope that Dr. Leslie may enable us to place his views before the Association in the JOURNAL in a more condensed form.

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. MANLEY (West Bromwich).—The subject of the letter shall be brought under the notice of the President of Council.

## TREATMENT OF CROUP BY FOMENTATIONS.

SIR,—During a practice extending over a period of more than twenty years, I have had at times to treat a fair amount of croup, and have run through all the different remedies usually tried in such cases with an average amount of success. In some cases, I may say, I have met with, I believe, more than the average of recoveries over fatal results. But, after all, my experience has led me to a feeling of regret that no remedies of a more certain kind had been discovered.

In April of last year, however, I was called to attend a child who had, I was told, been ailing with a bad cold for two or three days. On visiting it, I found it suffering from a severe attack of croup; and I determined to try the effect of a general fomentation. The child was about two years old; it breathed stridulously, throwing its head back, and every now and then giving the characteristic cough. I ordered the person in charge to at once wrap the child in a small blanket previously dipped in hot water, and then to envelope it in a larger dry blanket, and keep it in the arms during the whole night in order to prevent the child from throwing off the covering. On calling in the morning, I found the little patient in every respect greatly relieved, the breathing being considerably easier, the cough different in character. In fact, the child was convalescent. Some expectorant medicine was prescribed and taken during the day, and on the next day the child was entirely relieved.

The next case of the kind occurred in my practice on January 24th of this year. The parents were alarmed at the unusual nature of the symptoms, and, guessing that it was not a common cold, sent for me an earlier stage of the disorder. Having at once prescribed an emetic, followed up by the usual treatment by tartarised antimony, I called to see the child again about 10.30 P.M., and found it quite unrelieved—indeed, worse than when I had seen it in the morning. I directed it to be taken at once from its cot, and to be wrapped in flannel which had been dipped in hot water, as in the last case. On calling to see the child next morning at 2.20 A.M., I found it somewhat relieved; and still more so at 10 A.M. In the evening it was convalescent, slept quietly during the night, and the next day was running about at play; but was, of course, pulled down and weak. In this case no medicine at all was given after the flannel was applied.

On January 26th I was summoned to see a child, aged 6 years, the son of a farmer, who had previously been attended by a medical man who lived near, but who was now unable to visit it. I was told that the child had been ill a fortnight; that the medicine had made him very sick, and had once or twice for a time given relief. The child's breathing was very difficult; its head was thrown back; its eyes were half closed; pulse very rapid and nearly imperceptible; in fact, to all appearance, the little creature was *in articulo mortis*. In this case there appeared very little probability of anything affording relief; but I resolved to try the same remedy which had proved so successful in the two former instances. Accordingly, the child was at once wrapped in warm wet flannel, besides which I gave him carbonate of ammonia, in three-grain doses, in chloroform julep, a dose to be taken every hour. The next morning the father called to say that the child was much better, and the same treatment was continued. On calling to see the child the day after, I found all the symptoms greatly relieved; he had expectorated a large quantity of thick muco-purulent phlegm; the cough was loose in character; the health also fairly natural. He had called out for food, and had taken some mutton broth and a sponge-cake. From this time the case improved uninterruptedly, and quickly got well.

These are the only three cases in which I have had an opportunity of testing the efficacy of general fomentation in the treatment of croup; but its success has been so remarkable when applied in every stage of the complaint, that I am encouraged to give an account of it to my medical brethren through the pages of our JOURNAL; and I only hope their experience of it, as a remedial agent in this dangerous disease may be equally gratifying with my own. Its easy application, its simplicity, and its rapid curative effect, are its great recommendations to general adoption, and stand out in strong contrast to the lowering influence of the constant nausea or distressing emesis, and, I may add, to the uncertainty in action, of the old plan of treatment by antimonials and bleeding. I am, etc.,

HENRY E. NORRIS.

L.R.C.P. (Liverpool).—Duncombe and Wakley both represented the borough of Finsbury. It was the first named eccentric member, who, in addressing the House of Commons on medical reform, stated that Carlisle said medicine was an art founded in conjecture and improved in murder; and he (Mr. Duncombe) would therefore, until some better measure of medical reform was proposed to the House, leave the College of Physicians and the College of Surgeons to operate on and prescribe for each other, and the Society of Apothecaries to drench them both.

## ELECTIONS AT HOSPITALS.

SIR,—In the JOURNAL of March 28th is an interesting note on the subject of "Elections at Hospitals." The present mode of conducting the election of medical officers is undoubtedly bad, and, I think, must often deter the best men from competing on account of the great expense of so doing—both in money and in valuable time. The objection to the transfer of power from the Governors to the Committee of Management is, that the tendency would be to elect as honorary officers their past or present resident officers. I think this objection is not a good one; for, unless the services of those officers had been highly appreciated, the committee would by no means elect them; whereas, if their services had been very much to the benefit of the charity, they would most likely be the best men for the post of honorary members. I consider that the following plan would be open to very few objections. On a vacancy occurring, candidates should be requested to send a statement of their qualifications and testimonials to the Secretary; and, if so inclined, they may forward copies to each of the governors. But advertising in the newspapers, personal canvassing, and taking any means of influencing the governors, should render the candidate so doing disqualified for election. The testimonials should be submitted to a committee consisting of a certain proportion of the medical staff and the rest selected from the Committee of Management. This committee should be requested to select a certain number of candidates, from whom the whole body of governors should elect one to fill the vacant post.

The governors would thus still have the power of electing left in their hands; the best man, or one of the best, would be elected, and his expenses would be limited to the printing and postage of a certain number of copies of his testimonials.

I am, etc.,

JOHN B. POTTER, M.D.

**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.

#### ELECTIONS AT HOSPITALS.

**SIR,**—I have been much interested in the remarks contained in the *JOURNAL* of March 28th, upon the subject of elections at hospitals, and I am glad to see that the governors of the General Hospital, Birmingham, have been bold enough to set the example of attempting, however unsuccessfully, to interfere with the cherished rights or so-called privileges of their subscribers in this respect.

It is notorious, that elections to that hospital have cost the honorary officers engaged in them, five, six, and even eight hundred pounds, to canvass a body of governors, numbering about thirteen hundred. It must be remembered that many of these, being known to be pledged, would not have been canvassed at all. I am therefore inclined to think that it would be expedient in the interests of the profession and public at large, that such proceedings should be submitted to the test of a Bill, like that passed the other day in the House of Commons, "to prevent corrupt practices at elections."

There are several ways by which the evil might be remedied. The objection to the power of election being delegated to the General Committee of Management, was, that the tendency of the Committee would be to elect, as honorary officers, their past or present resident officers, and that others would have but little chance against them; but surely this objection falls to the ground when we consider that it would be the easiest thing in the world to elect, say twelve to twenty, representative men from the body of governors, who could, with the greatest facility, decide upon the respective claims of the candidates. But the very objection urged against the method of election by the Committee, shows me plainly that the plan of having resident surgeons and resident physicians for a long term of years is a bad one; and that where there is a good school, as at Birmingham, it would be much better to throw open these appointments, as rewards, to be held for short intervals by the most distinguished pupils of the school.

In the Edinburgh Infirmary, where this plan is adopted, the election of honorary officers is entrusted to the Committee of Management, numbering only about one-fourth of the Birmingham Committee; and the elections are conducted with perfect impartiality—the man being chosen who stands highest in point of character and professional ability; while the door is steadily closed against him who trusts only to the length of his purse.

I take the liberty to trouble you with these few remarks, feeling convinced as I do that an amendment in this respect would help more than anything else to enhance the high and well deserved reputation of the Birmingham Medical School.

Richmond, March 1868.

I am, etc., WM. ANDERSON, M.D.

#### GAGGING IN PRISONS.

**SIR,**—The letter of S. K. on the Gagging Prisons, inserted in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of March 21st, under your Notices to Correspondents, ought certainly not to be passed by in silence. S. K. infers, with a depth of conviction which almost amounts to certainty, that female prisoners are subjected to "a system of gagging", as a punishment for misconduct in prison.

I have had principal medical charge for the last fourteen years of the largest Government Prison for Females in the Kingdom, and I can confidently state that "gagging" has never been practised, nor even proposed to me, as a mode of punishment for prison offences. I think, too, I can confidently assert that it has never been practised in any government prison for men or women.

I saw in the *JOURNAL* the article on "gagging" to which S. K. refers; and I felt with you, that such a system of punishment ought to be denounced. I do think it the duty of S. K. to name the prisons in which this punishment is inflicted, for it ought to be condemned by every enlightened member of the medical profession.

Brixton Hill, March 1868.

I am, etc., J. D. RENDLE, M.D.

**SOUTHAMPTON.**—There is no collegiate law to prevent your nominating your two friends; only take care you do not sign the papers of more candidates for seats in the Council than there are vacancies.

#### LUNATICS IN CANADA.

**SIR,**—I observe by a paragraph under the above heading in the *JOURNAL* of February 1st, that "the *Canada Medical Journal* gives a deplorable account of the want of any public asylum for the insane in the Colony"; and adds, that "the community about Montreal are constantly obliged to send their sick to the United States, because there is not in the length and breadth of the land a suitable institution for their care and treatment." Allow me to state, that your contemporary has led you into an error, from a cause which it will require a few preliminary words to explain. People in England are in the habit of including under the name of Canada the whole extent of British North America—an enormous territory, larger than the United States, larger than Australia. Across the Atlantic, on the contrary, the designation has always, till very lately, been restricted to the two large inland provinces of Lower and Upper Canada, or Canada East and Canada West. By an Act of Confederation, which passed last year through the Imperial Parliament, these countries are now united to the Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, dropping the exclusive right to the old names, and assuming those of Quebec and Ontario; while the name of Canada—or, strictly speaking, the Dominion of Canada—is extended to the whole Confederation. In few words, the Dominion of Canada at present includes, counting westwardly, the four provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario. Thus it is plain that the name of *Canada Medical Journal* has become a misnomer, unless employed in the extended sense just indicated. Now, the fact is, that the people of the Maritime Provinces are by no means so unmindful of the claims of the insane as your readers must have been led to suppose. As you enter the famous harbour of Halifax, Nova Scotia, one of the most conspicuous objects that meet the eye on the right side of the steamer is a large and handsome brick edifice, seated on an eminence in the midst of an ornamental enclosure stretching down to the water side, and commanding a fine view of the harbour and of the city, which lies on the opposite side. This is the Provincial Asylum for the Insane, an institution which, for architecture and internal management, would do no discredit to England, and, in point of situation, surpasses anything of the kind in this country with which I am acquainted. At St. John, New Brunswick, there is another asylum, under the control of the local government, which rivals that in the sister province. So that here are two decided exceptions to the incautious generalisation of your "Canada" contemporary; in fact, it is hard to say which figures make the rule, and which the exception.

London, March 1868.

I am, etc.,  
A TRAVELLING PHYSICIAN.

**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. JOHN GOLDSMITH (Worthing).**—The resources of the Medical Act are available where a medical title is unlawfully assumed; but the offence of taking a medical title where the diploma is only a surgical one, should perhaps be dealt with by a communication from the Registrar of the Surgical Body.

**DR. G. P. RUGG** shall receive a formal receipt.

#### THE ST. THOMAS'S BIENNIAL DINNER.

**AN** Old St. Thomas's Hospital Man writes:—I see that the St. Thomas's Hospital Old Students' Biennial Dinner is advertised to be held on May 21st. It appears to me that it would be much better that it should take place on May 13th, the day on which Her Majesty has decided to lay the foundation-stone of the new hospital. It would then enable many old St. Thomas's men (myself amongst the number) to be present at both events; whereas, if the existing arrangement is adhered to, it will be very inconvenient, nay, I may say impossible, for several of us in practice to be absent on both days.

**WE** are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest:—The *Birmingham Daily Post*; The *Liverpool Daily Post*, April 17th; The *Liverpool Mercury*, April 17th; The *Southport Visitor*, April 17th; *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, April 18th; The *Liverpool Daily Courier*; The *Edinburgh Evening Courant*; The *Tottenham and Edmondston Weekly Express*; The *Newcastle Daily Journal*; The *Carlisle Journal*, April 10th; The *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, April 20th; The *Melbourne Age*, March 24th; The *Aberdeen Herald*.

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

Mr. Arthur Ransome, Manchester (with enclosure); Dr. Aquilla Smith, Dublin (with enclosure); Dr. Dyce, Aberdeen (with enclosure); Messrs. Waite and Kite, Cheltenham; The Secretary of the Reading Pathological Society (with enclosure); Dr. Septimus Gibbon, London (with enclosure); Mr. Holmes Cote, London (with enclosure); Mr. Baxter Langley, London (with enclosure); Mr. Augustin Prichard, Clifton (with enclosure); Mr. De la Garde, Exeter (with enclosure); The Master and Wardens of the Society of Apothecaries, London; The Secretary of the Medical Society of London (with enclosure); Dr. D. Little, Manchester (with enclosure); Mr. Langston Parker, Birmingham (with enclosure); Mr. Lansdown, Bristol; Dr. Watson, Tottenham; Dr. Roberts, Liverpool (with enclosure); Dr. H. Simpson, Manchester; Mr. J. Gardner, Bungay; Mrs. M. A. Baines, London (with enclosure); Mr. Trustram, Tunbridge Wells; Dr. Wades, Hanley (with enclosure); Dr. Wade, Birmingham; Mr. E. Chapman, Lytham; Dr. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (with enclosure); Dr. Hughes Bennett, Edinburgh; Mr. J. Manley, West Bromwich; Mr. F. Le Fevre Milburn, Nottingham (with enclosure); Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, London (with enclosure); Mr. James Paget, London (with enclosure); The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall (with enclosure); Dr. John Murray, London (with enclosure); The Registrar-General of England (with enclosure); Mr. T. M. Stone, London (with enclosure); The Registrar-General of Ireland (with enclosure); Dr. Fredk. J. Brown, Rochester (with enclosure); Mr. St. George Mivart, London (with enclosure); Sir James Simpson, Edinburgh; Dr. E. Lankester, London (with enclosure); Dr. Samelson, Manchester; Dr. Mapother, Dublin (with enclosure); Dr. Symonds, Clifton; Dr. P. H. Watson, Edinburgh (with enclosure); Dr. Parkes, Bittern, Southampton; Professor Wanklyn, London; Dr. T. K. Chambers, London (with enclosure); Dr. A. G. Medwin, Blackheath; Dr. J. W. Ogle, London; Mr. T. R. Hemsted, Whitchurch, Hants; Mr. A. Myers, Coldstream Guards; Dr. G. Fisher, Hanover; The President of the Microscopical Society (with enclosure); Dr. M. Foster, London; Dr. Burdon Sanderson, London (with enclosure); Mr. T. Spencer Wells, London; Dr. Beveridge, Aberdeen; Dr. T. O. Duffield, London; Mr. Fleischmann, Cheltenham; Dr. E. L. Fox, Bristol (with enclosure); Dr. Odling, London; Mr. R. S. Fowler, Bath (with enclosure); Dr. Radford, Manchester (with enclosure); Dr. Gamgee, Edinburgh; Mr. H. Terry, jun., Northampton; Dr. Greene, Moira (with enclosure); Dr. Wardell, Tunbridge Wells; Dr. Barclay, London; Dr. Cameron, Liverpool; Dr. E. Symes Thompson, London (with enclosure); Mr. F. Watts, London; and Mr. John Foster, London.

#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Fifth Annual Report of the Liverpool Hospital for Cancer and Skin-Diseases: with the Proceedings of the Annual Meeting, January 1868.  
On the Desirability of National Education of the Deaf and Dumb Poor. By J. Hawkins. London: 1868.  
The Twelfth Annual Report of the United Lunatic Asylum of the County and Borough of Nottingham, and the Fifty-seventh of the Original Institution, formerly the General Lunatic Asylum. Nottingham: 1868.  
The Dispensary Medical Officer; his Work and his Pay. Dublin: 1868.  
The History of Anæsthetics from an American point of view. By Mason Warren, M.D. Edinburgh: 1868.  
Plastics; a New Classification and a Brief Exposition of Plastic Surgery. By David Prince, M.D. Philadelphia: 1868.  
On Aphasia, or Loss of Speech in Cerebral Disease. By Frederic Bateman, M.D. Lewes: 1868.  
The Sixth Annual Report of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Lunatic Asylum for 1867. Carlisle: 1868.  
On Vaccination: its Value and Alleged Dangers. By Edward Ballard, M.D. London: Longman and Co. 1868.  
Thomson's Conspectus of the British Pharmacopœia. Edited by E. L. Birkett, M.D. New edition. London: Longman and Co. 1868.  
On the Statistics of the Recent Epidemic in Aberdeen, showing its Probable Cause and Cost. By R. Beveridge, M.D. London: 1868.  
The Morbid States of the Stomach and Duodenum, and their Relations to the Diseases of other Organs. By Samuel Fenwick, M.D. London: 1868.