

Dr. MAUDSLEY proposed, and Dr. LOCKHART ROBERTSON seconded, the following resolution with regard to the late Professor Griesinger, who had been an honorary member of the Association: "That the Medico-Psychological Association cannot allow its first meeting, since the death of Professor Griesinger, to pass, without earnestly expressing its sincere recognition of his high moral qualities, his distinguished scientific labours, and his energy and humanity as a reformer of the treatment of the insane in Germany; and desires to convey to his widow its heartfelt sympathy with her in the heavy bereavement which she, in common with medical science, has sustained."

THE NOMENCLATURE OF DISEASES.

At the meeting of the Royal College of Physicians on January 28th, it was resolved that 1,600 copies of the *Nomenclature of Diseases* should be at once printed. Next week the price of the work, and the exact time at which it will be published, will be announced.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.

At their last meeting, the Weekly Board of the Birmingham General Hospital authorised the medical officers to admit two of the most meritorious students to all the privileges of house-pupils without payment. As, however, there is not any room available for sleeping, they will, for the present, be obliged to sleep out of the hospital.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

NORTH WALES BRANCH.

THE next intermediate general meeting of the above Branch will be held on Thursday, March 4th, at 12 o'clock noon, at the Black Lion Hotel, Mold, under the presidency of James Williams, Esq.

Dinner at 3 P.M. Tickets 5s. each, exclusive of wine.

Gentlemen who have papers or cases to communicate, will please to forward the title or short abstract of the same; and those who purpose dining, will be good enough to give a few days' notice to the Secretary.

Beaumaris, February 1869.

D. KENT JONES, *Hon. Sec.*

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 1869.

S. SOLLY, Esq., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

REMARKS ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF RHEUMATIC FEVER.

BY WILLIAM W. GULL, M.D., AND HENRY G. SUTTON, M.B.

THE discussion on this paper was resumed.

Dr. DALDY wished to know what was meant by "rheumatism", and what by "rheumatic fever." He would like to abolish the word rheumatism altogether, including, as it did, several conditions, such as neuralgia with swelling of the joints. By rheumatic fever was generally understood the lithiasis, for which the elder Dr. Warren had said that six weeks was the treatment. The so-called subacute rheumatism was really a form of remittent fever *plus* rheumatism. Many of the cases mentioned by Dr. Gull as cases of rheumatic fever were not examples of rheumatic fever at all, but of a remittent fever, with associated local conditions, and having a course of from fourteen to twenty-one days.

Dr. HANDFIELD JONES said that there was importance in the remark that rheumatic fever was not an uniform condition. There were many other instances, such as epilepsy, neuralgia, etc., where the phenomena were liable to mislead; and the mere phenomenal study of disease was insufficient as a guide to treatment. The pathology of rheumatism was not known; and its treatment was altogether empirical. Some rheumatic fever patients excreted much acid and received relief and benefit from alkalies; while in other cases with articular manifestations there was an excess of alkali, and here large doses of quinine did good. Again, some cases (but not all) derived benefit from the application of blisters, though they were not cured thereby. It was necessary to exercise discretion in selecting the proper treatment for a case of rheumatic fever. There was only one definite fact: that the production of much acid is a definite indication for the use of alkalies. It ought to be asked whether what was called rheumatic fever was one disease or a variety of diseases.

Dr. WYNN WILLIAMS said that the discussion had diverged a little from the original question—whether rheumatic fever was benefited or not by medicines. He had had several attacks of rheumatic fever, and had tried both the "do-nothing" and the alkaline systems of treatment; and was led to strongly recommend the alkaline plan. When there was effusion in the joints, alkaline lotions with laudanum, applied hot, gave much relief. His remarks were based on an extensive experience among country patients.

Dr. WILKS was more or less in accord with the authors, and thought that Dr. Handfield Jones was much of the same opinion. He had had a large experience in rheumatic fever, but he did not know the remedy for it. He had used all the various means recommended; and it was remarkable that all the remedies were almost equally successful; he did not find that any were of no use. There was no one plan of treatment to be used successfully in all cases. The cases to which he referred were of rheumatic fever, as the term is generally understood. The fact of a paper such as that which had been presented being brought forward, was of some importance. Four or five years ago, there was a discussion on the treatment of rheumatism; and if a non-medical writer to the Society had then suggested that rheumatic fever patients might recover without medicine, none could have contradicted him. But now, by obtaining a knowledge of the natural history of the disease, physicians were on the road to its proper treatment. He did not believe that the cases described by Drs. Gull and Sutton were cases of remittent fever. He considered the reading of the paper, as a contribution towards the natural history of the disease, an important fact in the annals of the Society.

Dr. BILLING had hoped that Dr. Wilks would have given his opinion as to the value of the mint-water or "do-nothing" treatment of rheumatism.

Dr. SIBSON would ask whether that treatment could be called "do-nothing" which consisted in keeping a patient in bed, supplying him with proper food, and guarding him from injury? A treatment based on the strict observation of facts, and excluding all distinctly foreign elements, was doing more than giving alkalies, lemon-juice, or other drugs. Nothing was more easy than to prescribe on paper; but the physician must labour in constantly watching the patient and protecting him from harm. Behind all the various methods of treatment there was a common measure; and this was the rest, care, and nurture in hospital. During the last two years and four months, he had treated rheumatism without internal remedies, but with a care, attention, and nursing which he had never before bestowed on his patients. He had been led, by observing relapses in consequence of allowing patients to get up too early, to keep rheumatic fever patients in bed for some time after they were free from pain; and this was a most difficult matter to carry out. Patients would get up and use their limbs, and consequently had relapses. In his treatment, he aimed at securing absolute rest from movement. The patient was kept in bed, with the affected limbs wrapped in cotton-wool; and a cradle was placed to relieve him from the pressure of the bed-clothes. He studied to relieve pain in every possible way in which this could be done. He applied belladonna liniment to the joints; placed a pillow under the foot to prevent it from hanging down, etc. He did not think that this "surgical watching" of the patient could be called "do-nothing" treatment. Mr. Hilton had called attention to the importance of rest in surgery; and it was of equally great importance in the medical treatment of disease. In speaking of the shortness of acute symptoms, we lost sight of an important fact. The great point was, to observe what tendency there was to inflammation of the fibrous structures of the heart. There could be no question that the valves and cavities of the heart were most worked, and more liable to become affected; hence the value of rest and withdrawal of pressure. If there were much pain in the joints, with inflammation, he applied a few leeches; if there were no inflammation, a little morphia was injected subcutaneously. Regarding the use of peppermint-water, he was not sure whether it was right to pretend to give medicine. He had given medicine only for special purposes for more than two years, except, during convalescence, a little iron with quinine; and his patients were well pleased to be relieved from taking medicine. His mind was, however, not made up as to which was the best treatment of rheumatism. This had yet to be proved. We must go carefully and earnestly into the inquiry, and treat patients, not symptoms alone.

Dr. BILLING said that giving mint-water was doing nothing. Even Dr. Sibson's treatment, as described by him, was not in all respects mild; he used leeches, morphia injections, belladonna, etc. The management of the patient, as described by Dr. Sibson, was the work of a nurse. Various modes of treatment were useful at different times.

Dr. ANSTIE said that the alkaline treatment of rheumatism had been regarded as a great boon, and there was a mass of evidence in

talents of no mean order, unassuming and unselfish in a marked degree, a thorough gentleman, and a man of sterling worth, Dr. Campbell will be long remembered with affection by his old fellow-students and regimental comrades.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

DRAWING CLASSES.—The Radcliffe Librarian gives notice that, for the purpose of aiding Natural Science students and others in acquiring the power of correct drawing from nature, arrangements have been made for conducting a class of natural history and anatomical drawing, in the Library, on every Thursday evening during the present Term, at Seven P.M. Persons desiring to avail themselves of this help can learn further particulars by applying at the Library from Two to Four on any day.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

TRINITY COLLEGE.—The authorities of this College have determined to give henceforth a Fellowship, once in three years at least, for Proficiency in Natural Science. The examination will be open to all Graduates of the University whose standing after the B.A., M.B., or B.L. Degree does not exceed three years. It will take place at the usual time of the Examination for the Fellowships, *i.e.*, early in October.

CLARE COLLEGE offers a Scholarship for Natural Science of the value of £50 a year, tenable for three and a half years. The Examination will take place on March 17th, and will be open to all Students who have not commenced residence in the University. Further information may be obtained from the Rev. W. Raynes, tutor of the College.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—At a general meeting of the Fellows, held on Thursday, January 28th, 1869, the following gentleman, having undergone the necessary examination, were duly admitted members of the College.

Corfield, William Henry, M.B.Oxon., University College
Fox, Alexander, 10, Finsbury Pavement
Mayo, Charles, M.B.Oxon., 121, Belgrave Mansions, Grosvenor Gardens
Ord, William Miller, M.B.Lond., Streatham Hill

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, January 28th, 1869.

Banks, Richard, Cockermouth
Burroughs, Benjamin Power Beames, Flax Bourton, near Bristol
Dean, Edward, Slaithwaite, near Huddersfield

At the same Court, the following passed the first examination.

Morris, William, Birmingham

As an Assistant in compounding and dispensing medicines.
Job, Thomas, Tavistock

At the Preliminary Examination in Arts, held at the Hall of the Society, on the 29th and 30th of January, 1869, 35 candidates presented themselves; of whom 10 were rejected, and the following 25 passed, and received certificates of proficiency in general education.

In the First Class.—Henry Boyson, Joseph Foreman, Arthur Jones, and Fredk. Edward Woodward.

In the Second Class.—Matilda Chaplin, William Robert Channell, Bolton George Corney, Lewis Davies, Charles Walter Godfrey, William Homewood Gravely, Keith Foster Hodgson, Thomas Jones, Robert H. Kellie, Frederick William Lewis, Edward Jas. Lloyd, Herbert Page, Alfred P. Pilgrim, Walter Pocock, Thomas M. Raye, Charles Rees, Everard Home Saunders, Charles Louis Isidore de Seilan, Charles Seymour, George Augustus Slater, and John Douglas Scoffern.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are declared:—

ANDERSON UNIVERSITY, Glasgow—Lecturer on Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery.

BALLINASLOE UNION—Medical Officer for the Laurencetown Dispensary District. (£80 per annum, and Vaccination and Registration Fees.)

BOLTON INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon.

BOOTLE DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon (£100 per annum, with Apartments, Coals, Gas, and Attendance).

BRADFORD (Yorkshire) INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY—Physician.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM, Stone, near Aylesbury—Assistant Medical Officer. (£80 per annum, with board and furnished apartments.)

CAISTON UNION, Lincolnshire—Medical Officer for the Waddingham District.

COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE HOSPITAL—Physician.

EAST INDIAN UNITED SERVICE CLUB—Surgeon.

FARRINGTON GENERAL DISPENSARY AND LYING-IN CHARITY, Bartlett's Buildings, Holborn—Surgeon

GENERAL INFIRMARY, Salisbury—House-Surgeon.

HALSTEAD UNION, Essex—Medical Officer for District No. 1; ditto for Workhouse.

HEXHAM UNION, Northumberland—Medical Officer for District No. 5.

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Brompton—Resident Clinical Assistant.

INFIRMARY FOR EPILEPSY AND PARALYSIS, Charles Street, Portman Square—Assistant-Physician.

KENT AND CANTERBURY HOSPITAL—Physician; Assistant House-Surgeon and Dispenser.

KINGSTON UNION, Surrey—Public Vaccinator.

LAMBETH, Parish of—Resident Medical Officer and Dispenser for the Workhouse in Princes Road. (£80 per annum, with board, apartments, and washing.)

LEICESTER BOROUGH LUNATIC ASYLUM—Resident Medical Superintendent. (£350 per ann., with residence, coal, gas, washing, and garden produce.)

LIVERPOOL INFIRMARY FOR CHILDREN—House-Surgeon. (£60 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing.)

LODDON AND CLAVERING UNION, Norfolk—Medical Officer for District No. 1. (£43:7:3 per annum and Vaccination Fees, and extra fees for Surgical and Midwifery Cases.)

MACCLESFIELD UNION, Cheshire—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Whaley, Taxal, and Kettleshulme District.

NORWICH DISPENSARY—Physician.

NOTTINGHAM DISPENSARY—Resident Surgeon; Assistant Resident Surgeon.

ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL, Reading—Physician.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND—Examiner in Midwifery.

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

ROYAL KENT DISPENSARY, Greenwich—Resident Medical Officer. (£150 per annum, with unfurnished apartments, coal, and gas.)

SHEFFIELD PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon (£100 and Assistant House-Surgeon (£65), in each case Apartments, Washing, and Board.

SOUTHAMPTON DISPENSARY—Surgeon.

SWINFORD UNION, co. Mayo—Temporary Medical Officer for the Kilkelly Dispensary District.

URLINGFORD UNION, co. Kilkenny—Medical Officer for the Kilkooly Dispensary District. (£100 per annum, exclusive of Vaccination Fees.)

WEST ASHFORD UNION, Kent—Medical Officer for District No. 4. (£70 per annum.)

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Names marked with an asterisk are those of Members of the Association.

BROCKLEHURST, Thomas Howard, Esq., appointed Resident Medical Officer to the New Dispensary, Hulme, Manchester.

FIELD, George, Esq., appointed Aural and Ophthalmic Clinical Assistant to St. Mary's Hospital.

LILLY, Hubert Walter, Esq., elected District Medical Officer to the Western Division of Notting Hill.

***VINCENT, Osman, Esq.**, appointed Chloroformist to the Middlesex Hospital, vice *John Murray, M.D., resigned.

BIRTHS.

ELLISTON.—On February 1st, at Manor House, Ipswich, the wife of *W. A. Elliston, M.D., of a son.

GREENE.—On December 13th, 1868, at Neemuch, Rajpootana, the wife of Hubert R. Greene, Esq., Staff-Assistant-Surgeon, of a son.

GROVE.—On January 13th, the wife of *William R. Grove, M.D., St. Ives, Huntingdonshire, of a son.

HARDESTY.—On January 18th, at High Street, Lochee, Dundee, the wife of J. Jeffrey Hardesty, L.R.C.P. and S.E., of a daughter.

KIDD.—On January 29th, at 6, Newton Terrace, High Road, *i.e.*, the wife of Staff-Surgeon Leonard Kidd, M.B., Army Medical Department, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

***COOKE, William Harry, M.D.**, of Aldridge, to Harriet Anne, only surviving daughter of the late Joel Smith, Esq., of Chorley Place, near Lichfield, at Farewell Church, on January 25th.

***FISHER, Stephen Winter, M.D.**, to Mary Anne, daughter of Henry Baker, Esq., Ham House, West Buckland, Somerset, on January 28th.

DEATH.

GILLAM, George J., Esq., Surgeon, formerly of Burnham, Buckinghamshire, aged 41, on January 12th.

TOWER HAMLETS DISPENSARY.—At the annual meeting of the Governors of the Tower Hamlets Dispensary, held on the 27th of January, an unanimous vote of thanks was passed, and an *honorary* presented to their resident medical officer, Mr. A. A. Cæsar, for his very successful efforts on behalf of the charity during the past year.

BEQUESTS, ETC.—The late Mr. Davidson, of Balnagask, Kincardineshire, has bequeathed £1500 to be divided between the Aberdeen Infirmary and one or two other charitable Institutions in that town. Also, £100 to the London Hospital, Mile End Road.—The will of John Staniforth Beckett, Esq., Deputy Lieutenant for the West Riding of Yorkshire, was proved in London on the 13th inst., under £350,000. He has left to the Beckett Dispensary, Barnsley, £5000.—Mrs. Jean Johnston or Logan, of Glasgow, has left a legacy of £200 to the Royal Infirmary of that city.—The will of the late Dr. Edward Scholfield, of Doncaster, has been proved under £18,000 personality.

DR. WILTSHIRE, Government Inspector, has been visiting the town of Wombwell, Yorkshire, where there was an outbreak of fever in August, September, and October last, which was fatal to many persons, for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon its sanitary condition.

ODONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—At the usual monthly meeting, held on Monday evening last, J. H. Barrett, Esq., President, in the chair; Mr. Sewill, M.R.C.S., and L.D.S., read a paper "On the Comparative Value of the Materials used in Taking Impressions of the Mouth." Mr. Sewill's object was not so much to lay down any positive rules as to give his own experience in the hopes of raising a discussion. The Chairman, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Turner, Mr. Vasey, Mr. Moore, Mr. Sercombe, Mr. Fox, and others gave their respective views as to the use of gutta percha, stense composition, plaster of Paris, and wax. Mr. Sewill, in replying, rejoiced that the advocates of wax were so silent, while the Chairman equally regretted the circumstance and considered it as by no means a conclusive argument against that material. No positive conclusion was arrived at as to which was the best material in all cases. The general opinion seemed to be that much depended on the nature of each individual case.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAYMetropolitan 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.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 P.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 London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Free, 1.30 P.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.—Medical Society of London, 8 P.M., Casual Communications, 8.30 P.M., Mr. Wm. Adams, Third Lettsomian Lecture, "On Strumous Diseases of the Joints: their Pathology and Treatment; also, the Treatment for the Restoration of Motion in Cases of Stiff Joint or Partial Ankylosis."—National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, 8 P.M. Economy and Trade Department.
TUESDAY.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8 P.M., Ballot, 8.30 P.M., Mr. John Wood, "On Fission and Extroversion of the Bladder, and Epispadias, treated by Plastic Operations."—Ethnological Society of London, 8 P.M., "On Ceremonies accompanying Childbirth in Australia and New Zealand," communicated by Dr. Hooker, F.R.S.; "On Cromlechs and Megalithic Monuments," by Hodder M. Westropp.
WEDNESDAY.—Royal Microscopical Society, 8 P.M. Anniversary, Election of Officers, and President's Address.—Epidemiological Society, 8 P.M., Dr. Ed. Goodeve, "On the Cholera Epidemic of 1867 in Northern India"; Mr. Radcliffe, "On Fluctuations of the Subsoil Water in a London Parish."
FRIDAY.—Clinical Society, 8 P.M., Dr. Buzzard, "Case of Acute Rheumatism in an Epileptic Patient"; Mr. Maunder, "A Case of Colotomy"; Dr. Duffin, "Treatment of Cases of Syphilitic Rheumatism"; Dr. Bäumlér, "Cases in Non-Tuberculous Hæmoptysis."

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.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

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.

CASES for Binding the Volumes of the JOURNAL may be had on application to Mr. Richards, 37, Great Queen Street. Price 1s. 6d. each. By post, 1s. 8d.

IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of February 13th, will appear a Lecture by Sir James Y. Simpson, Bart., Edinburgh, on the "Siamese Twins," with eight illustrations.

A. A. D.—The Hunterian Oration will be delivered on Monday, the 15th instant, by Mr. Quain, the President of the College. On application to the Secretary, you can ascertain the hour.

DR. HAYNES (Laverstock), and Mr. Vose Solomon (Birmingham), must consider that the total annual subscription which is to cover the expense of the JOURNAL post free, and the working expenses of the Association as such, is only one guinea annually. It would not be possible, then, to publish and supply weekly for that sum a Journal such as that on which they pass a flattering judgment, but for the great extension which we have been able to effect during the last two years in the advertising connection. To publish extra numbers and large supplements such as they suggest, would involve an enlarged subscription. If the total subscription to the Association and the Journal were £1:11:6, which is about the ordinary subscription to another similar weekly journal, there would be a surplus of £2000 a year for the purpose of enlarging the Journal or for other expenditure. The 10s. 6d. saved is in the nature of "a dividend," of which one of our contemporaries speaks as a desideratum, forgetting that it is not possible to eat a cake and to have it.

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.

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETIES AND MEDICAL FEES.

SIR,—The letter of "An Associate," in the JOURNAL of January 23rd, reminds me of an intention I some time ago had to write you on the same subject; and, as I can reveal a little more of the *modus operandi* of the London Life Association, I will ask for a small corner of your space.

In December last, I received the enclosed form, asking for "unreserved answers" as to "the health and habits" of a patient of mine. It is, I have no doubt, similar to that sent to you by "An Associate." I wrote at once to the secretary, saying that, as a report regarding eligibility for assurance could be only of advantage to an Assurance Company, and might possibly be injurious to the interests of one's patient, it was not fair in any case to look to the latter for remuneration; and that I should have much pleasure in filling up and forwarding the report on being informed that I was to look to the London Life Association for my fee. I at the same time sent a copy of the letter to my patient. A few days afterwards, I had to visit a member of the family, and I was shown a form almost entirely in print, which ran thus, or nearly thus, for I quote from memory.

"Sir,—Your medical attendant, Dr. Stephens, having refused to make a report as to the state of your health, I have to request that you will answer the annexed questions. Yours obediently, "_____, Secretary."

On the other leaf was a long string of questions, somewhat in this wise. "What illnesses have you had?—What was the duration of your illnesses?—When were you last ill?—How long has Dr. S. attended you?—How often has he attended you?—What has he attended you for?—When did he attend you last? etc."

It so happened that the assurer was a very healthy man, and had scarcely ever been the subject of medical treatment; but, I presume, if the answers had been unsatisfactory, the life would have been summarily declined, or I should have been asked once more for a report, with the tender of a fee.

To the ordinary intellect, it appears incomprehensible that men of the world should place implicit reliance in the word of an interested party, and risk being cheated out of a large sum of money, rather than disburse a trifling fee for a disinterested and trustworthy opinion; I can only suppose that companies as well as individuals are sometimes afflicted with obliquity of vision, and perhaps even with blindness.

In the case to which my letter refers, the guinea was really saved; but I could tell an Assurance Company of another case, where a fee was refused to a medical attendant, who would have reported the existence of a cavity in an assurer's lung, and thus have saved the "penny-wise and pound-foolish" Company from being mulcted, sooner or later, of some hundreds of pounds. This, however, I take it, is a matter for the consideration of Assurance Companies and not of the medical profession; and I would merely now draw attention to the necessity of communicating with our patients when we decline to act as the protectors of the interests of Assurance Companies at their charge. Had I not done so my patient would naturally have been offended at my apparent obstructiveness; for I knew nothing against his life, and the circular sent him from the office curtly stated that I had "refused" the necessary information, without mentioning the manner in which my refusal had been qualified.

I am, etc., JOSEPH STEPHENS, M.D.

Pavilion Parade, Brighton, January 1869.

SIR,—I beg to congratulate our Associate at Bishop Stortford upon the course he pursued with reference to the London Life Association, as stated in your correspondence of January 23rd. I have done precisely the same with that Company on two separate occasions. In each instance the life was a first-class one; and, having been declined by the "London Life," in consequence of my refusing to give a certificate, was afterwards assured, in accordance with my suggestion, at another office.

An important object of our Association being to defend, by combined action, the just interests of the profession, let me hope that none of our members will ever give a medical certificate to any Assurance Company which insults the medical referee by asking him for *gratuitous* advice. I am, etc.,

THE SENIOR PHYSICIAN OF ONE OF THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

PRIVATE ADDRESSES ON HOSPITAL LETTERS.

SIR,—I cannot undertake, as you suggest, to supply you with a list of all the institutions upon whose letters of admission the private addresses of the medical officers are printed, but I have much pleasure in forwarding two or three; e.g., the Westminster Hospital, the Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea, the Westminster Dispensary, and the Royal Pimlico Dispensary. I could mention many more, but I have not the letters by me with which to refresh my memory.

I am, etc., C. A. SOLBÉ, Clerk, B.A.,

Honorary Secretary to the Hospital for Diseases of Women and Children, 9, Vincent Square, Westminster, January 29th, 1869.

EARL SPENCER.

SIR,—Earl Spencer's father was the Honourable Admiral Spencer, who commanded the *Doris* frigate on the South American Station in 1824, represented Worcestershire in 1834, and was brother to Lord Althorp, who was Earl Grey's Chancellor of the Exchequer.

I am, etc., FRANCIS DAVIES, Captain W. R.V.

Pershore, December 1868.

PRIVATE PRACTICE BY HOUSE-SURGEONS.—A controversy has arisen at the Gainsborough Dispensary, as to the right of the house-surgeon to practise for profit. We have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that it is not right that the paid resident surgeon of a dispensary, where the consulting surgeons attend without fee, should practise for profit. The injustice and impropriety are too obvious to need discussion. The practice is one which is, we think, unknown. It would make the position of general practitioners simply intolerable; and convert the use of charitable donations to the private support of a gentleman intent on gaining an income without risk or expenditure.

A MANCHESTER STUDENT.—The disgraceful and wanton destruction of two valuable paintings in the College of Surgeons, took place on the first evening of the recent examination for membership; consequently, a stigma attaches to all who went up that evening. It is hoped the delinquent will be denounced.

REPRESENTATION OF THE SCOTCH UNIVERSITIES IN THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

SIR,—The Medical Act of 1858 is an utter failure. It is painfully incomplete, and in many points most unjust. Edinburgh and Aberdeen men have seen from the commencement that a trouble would arise when Aberdeen ceased to give in to Edinburgh, and oppose the return of the Edinburgh man. The Aberdeen turn certainly has arrived; and very properly Professor Macrobis has been elected. For ten years the greatest unfairness has existed, as follows. Edinburgh returned 3 members; Glasgow, 2; Aberdeen, 0.

Now, it was proposed in the Medical Act that the College of Surgeons and the Glasgow Faculty should unite and form one College of Surgeons for Scotland. If, then, that was desirable, why not have given one representative to this twin College of Surgeons? Then Aberdeen and Edinburgh Universities might and ought to have each had a representative as much as the Apothecaries' Hall of London or Dublin, or the University of Durham, which returns a representative, and rarely confers a medical degree. Those places that do the work of medical education for Scotland should have their own man in the Medical Council. Let us have reform.

Suppose the members of each University, College, or Hall, were to elect the representative for the Medical Council, a popular and talented man would be chosen, and the profession represented, and the post become a prize and position of honour. Thus I am certain the standard of education would be kept up, since the members of the different Universities and Colleges would desire to protect themselves. Trusting that every member of the profession will do his best to aid the new Bill, when it is ready.

I am, etc.,
December 1868.

W. MILSTED HARMER, M.R.C.P. Edin.

THE NON-MERCURIAL TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS.

SIR,—On visiting the hospitals in London and Edinburgh this autumn, I had opportunity to hear the opinions of the English and Scottish doctors regarding the treatment of syphilis; and, with very few exceptions, they are still using mercury as an universal treatment of syphilis. For this cause, I feel desirous to inform you that the use of mercury, as an universal remedy against syphilis, is rejected, and, for the most part, abandoned by the whole Norwegian faculty, as an obnoxious remedy in the treatment of syphilis. This conviction we have gained by the most exact and scientific examinations, having an experience of almost twenty years, during which time the treatment of syphilis without mercury has been successfully performed. We do not need, I fancy, a more sufficient argument than the fact, that, after the employment of this drug in syphilis has been abandoned, such severe forms of the disease, as carious affections of the bone, phagedenic ulcers, paralysis, mental affections, etc., very rarely have manifested themselves; and, even when they have, it has been recognised that these had generally been the consequence of mercury used in a past epoch.

A very intelligent and skilful Norwegian syphilographer, Dr. Owre, has collected statistics of about one hundred cases from the last three or four years; these he has treated without any universal remedy, solely by treatment of the symptoms, and he has not yet been obliged to prescribe mercury for any local syphilitic affection, nor for iritis nor for laryngitis, etc. These recovered altogether only by treatment of the symptoms without any particle of mercury. In July last, he read a paper to the Norwegian Medical Society, pointing out his statistics and the success of his treatment, which is as good, and for many reasons far better than that of the treatment with mercury.

My opinion is, that syphilis is a disease having a cyclic course, like variola and vaccinia, and it requires merely time, never mercury, to pass through the different degrees, and in most cases to result in recovery. I quite agree with Dr. Charles Drysdale, in saying, "that the chief point in the treatment of that sad plague of our race, syphilis, is first to get rid of mercury."

I should wish to have been able to refer to some cases explaining this view, and shewing the success of the treatment of Dr. Owre; but at present I have not the necessary material with me. I hope meanwhile that I shall have opportunity afterwards to hand you a more instructive and complete report.

I am, etc.,

CHRISTIAN KJÖNIG, M.D.,

London, December 1868.

from Fredrikstad, Norway.

DR. J. L.—From a letter which appeared in the *Times* of Saturday last, with the well known initials T. M. S., it appears that no person of the name of "Charles Griffith" appears in the Register of the 1,200 gentlemen pursuing their professional studies in this metropolis. It is an old trick of well dressed delinquents to designate themselves at the police courts as medical students.

SCOTCH GRADUATES AND LICENTIATES.

SIR,—I am astonished that a gentleman like Mr. Baxter Langley should have committed such an error in his letter in your issue of January 23rd, as not to make some difference and distinction between Edinburgh graduates and mere licentiates of the College of Surgeons, in his statements that you can get Scotch and Irish assistants cheaper than English ones. By not making this distinction, Mr. Langley tends to keep up, perhaps unwittingly, the popular error, that Scotch licentiates and graduates are the same, and have not a different social status.

Should this letter induce Mr. Langley to modify his statements, it would tend greatly to remove the unjust slur cast upon Scotch diplomats in England.

I am, etc.,

AN ENGLISHMAN WHO HAS GRADUATED IN SCOTLAND.

"ON LEAVE" writes from the Netley Medical School:—"It will be a remarkable blunder if the Chair of Hygiene, the most highly necessary one in the whole system, should be abolished to save a paltry £600 or £800 a year, and that wickedly extravagant fabric of governors, assistant governors, and their *attachés*, which costs the country thousands a year, should remain as a gigantic monument of absurd wasteful and futile administration." We entertain precisely the same opinion.

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

THE ABERDEEN ROYAL INFIRMARY: THE FEMALE LOCK WARD.

SIR,—It may be not without effect to call attention again to a grievance which has been for a long time a subject of complaint among the students here; viz., the decision of the Infirmary Managers to exclude students from accompanying the surgeon during his visit to the Female Lock Ward. The Infirmary Managers consist largely of representatives, lay and clerical, from the various churches which contribute to the Hospital funds; and there is a tradition, that these gentlemen were the means of getting the ward in question closed to us. On what principle, it is not easy to understand. It has often happened that one class of men have been entrusted to legislate for others in a different social position, or, as in the present case, following a different profession; and it has always been a question whether such legislation can be just. In the present instance, we believe there is not a single member of the medical profession itself but would consider the restrictions put upon us to be unreasonable. Does it appear to the theological mind that this fruit of the tree of knowledge is of the kind that is "bought dear by knowing ill," so much so that we had better remain altogether ignorant of the practical treatment of an important part of surgery? Perhaps one of the Managers—and they have among them a Rev. Doctor who is always foremost in their deliberations, and is reckoned a great casuist in these parts—may be able to explain to us on what principle and with what practical benefit we are prohibited from accompanying the surgeon to the ward in question. It is, doubtless, with the best of motives, and in no arbitrary exercise of their authority that the Managers have imposed the restrictions, but they must be ignorant of the injurious effect their regulations have upon the pupils of the hospital. Our students, as a rule, leave the Infirmary without any practical experience whatever of diseases in the female received into this ward, the ready diagnosis and treatment of which it is of the greatest importance that they should be thoroughly acquainted with. If the matter were put before the managers in the proper light it is to be expected that they would remove the present restrictions, so far, at least, as to allow the advanced students attending the surgical wards to accompany Professor Pirrie, the surgeon of the ward, at his visit. Any limitations that Dr. Pirrie might think it necessary to make would be at once respected by the students. I am, etc.,
A STUDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY.

WE are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest:—The Wiltshire County Mirror, Feb. 3rd; The Merthyr Telegraph, Jan. 30th; Arris's Birmingham Gazette, Jan. 30th; The Japan Times' Overland Mail, Dec. 9th, 1868; The Melbourne Argus; The Newcastle Daily Chronicle, Jan. 25th; The Durham County Advertiser, Jan. 29th; The Scotsman, Jan. 25th; The Retford, Workop, Isle of Axholme and Gainsborough News, Jan. 16th; The Barnsley Chronicle, Jan. 30th; The Reading Mercury, Oxford Gazette, Newbury Herald, and Berks County Paper, Jan. 30th; The New York Medical Record, Jan. 15th; The Geelong Advertiser, Nov. 12th, 1868; The Scarborough Gazette, Jan. 28th.

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

Dr. W. Stokes, Dublin; D. V. V., Devon; Mr. T. Q. Couch, Bodmin; Surgeon R.N., Cornwall; Messrs. Black, Edinburgh; Mr. C. H. Solbé, London; Messrs. Andres, Bros., London; Mr. S. D. Wells, Falmouth; Mr. H. Cautley, Hedon; Mr. H. J. Simpson, Leeds; Dr. J. C. Garman, Wednesbury; Mr. Higginbottom, Nottingham; Dr. Stephens, Brighton; Netley, Southampton; Dr. Hugh Norris, South Petherton; Dr. Andrew Clark, London; Dr. John Harley, London; Dr. Buchanan, London; Dr. Dobell, London; Dr. C. Archer, Lynn; Dr. Peacock, London; Dr. W. Rutherford, Edinburgh; Dr. T. Nedley, Dublin; Mr. G. Oliver, Redcar; Mr. J. Crew, Higham Ferrers; Dr. L. S. Haynes, Salisbury; Mr. J. White, Nottingham; Dr. Thomas, Merthyr Tydfil; Dr. J. Davies, Abersychan; Mr. G. Field, London; Dr. J. Blackstone, London; Dr. A. Wiltshire, London; Dr. Waters, Liverpool; Dr. Broadbent, London; Dr. Peacock, London; Dr. Munk, London; Dr. Murchison, London; Dr. Aitken, Edinburgh; Dr. William Budd, Clifton, Bristol; Mr. Syme, Edinburgh.

LETTERS, ETC. (with enclosures) from:—

Sir W. Jenner, Bart., London; Dr. G. M. Humphry, Cambridge; Mr. Furneaux Jordan, Birmingham; Dr. Drury, Odiham; Fiat Justitia, Barnsley; Mr. R. B. Sweeting, Basingstoke; Mr. J. de Courcy Young, Bristol; A. B. C., Reading; Dr. E. Trestrail, Luton; Dr. C. S. Barter, Bath; Mr. G. M. Gifford, Launceston; Mr. J. Sampson Gamgee, Birmingham; Dr. G. Buchanan, Glasgow; Mr. Harry Leach, London; Dr. Murray, London; The Honorary Secretary of the Harveian Society of London; Mr. Holmes, Slough; Dr. D. Mackinder, Gainsborough; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; The Registrar-General of Ireland; The Registrar-General of England; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Dr. Treutler, Kew; Dr. John Murray, London; The Registrar of the Medical Society of London; Dr. Aquilla Smith, Dublin; Mr. T. Pope, Cleobury Mortimer; Mr. Wm. Copney, London; Dr. Rigden, Canterbury; Dr. Peter Hood, London; Dr. Percy Leslie, Birmingham; Mr. T. Holmes, London; Dr. Joseph Bell, Edinburgh; The Assistant Secretary of the Royal Microscopical Society; Mr. Thomas H. Brocklehurst, Manchester; Mr. W. Strange, Worcester; Mr. Mac Cormac, Dublin; Mr. T. H. Bartlett, Birmingham; Dr. Elliston, Ipswich; Mr. Nelsin C. Dobson, Redcliffe, Bristol; Mr. H. Taylor, Cottishall; Dr. Andrew Clark, London; Mr. Heckford, London; The Honorary Secretaries of the Ethnological Society of London; The Honorary Secretary of the Epidemiological Society; Dr. Eustace Smith, London; Dr. Barr Meadows, London; Dr. R. D. Tannahill, Glasgow; The Honorary Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; Mr. Osman Vincent, London; Dr. Fitzgerald, Dublin; Mr. D. Kent Jones, Beaumaris.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Physician's Daily Pocket Record. By S. W. Butler, M.D. Philadelphia: 1869. On Going to Sleep. By C. H. Moore, Esq. London: 1868.