

## 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.*

## BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE fourth ordinary meeting of the Session will be held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday evening, March 4th, at 8.15 P.M.; R. N. STONE, Esq., President, in the Chair.

CHARLES STEELE, } *Honorary Secretaries.*  
R. S. FOWLER, }

Bath, February 1869.

## SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE next meeting of the above Branch is appointed to be held at the Infirmary, Gravesend, on Friday, March 5th, at 3.30 P.M. Dinner at the Old Falcon Inn, at 6 P.M.

*Papers promised.*—1. A Case of Section of the Supra-orbital Nerve for Neuralgia of the Eyeball. By J. Z. Laurence, Esq.—2. The Working of the Contagious Diseases' Act at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester. By A. W. Nankivell, Esq.

FREDERICK JAMES BROWN, M.D., *Hon. Secretary.*

Rochester, February 1869.

## EAST KENT DISTRICT MEDICAL MEETINGS.

The thirtieth meeting of this Society was held at Canterbury, on November 26th, 1868.

*Testimonial to Mr. Heckstall Smith.*—A resolution was passed—"That this meeting views with sympathy and concurrence the movement of the West Kent Branch for presenting a testimonial to Mr. Heckstall Smith as a lasting record of the esteem in which he is held by his friends, and of their approval of the manner in which he has upheld the honour of his profession under trying circumstances."

Dr. KERSEY read a short address reviewing the past history of the East Kent Medical Society and its present condition, dwelling upon many of the chief subjects affecting the profession.

Mr. ROSCOE, after adverting to the various names given to Aphasia by different authors, proceeded to define it pathologically and psychologically; and then discussed in a full and careful manner the presumed law of M. Broca, that "the faculty of speech was resident in the posterior part of the left frontal convolution." The common presence of *right* hemiplegia with aphasia led M. Broca to this theory; but Trousseau, Charcot, Hughlings Jackson, and Dr. J. W. Ogle had all adduced cases in which aphasia existed with *left* hemiplegia. Cases were also quoted in which it was clear that the left frontal lobes were completely disorganised without aphasia being present: therefore the only physiological conclusions that could at present be deduced from the study of the symptoms and pathology of aphasia were, that the faculty of speech resides almost invariably in the frontal lobes, almost exclusively in the left, and most frequently in the posterior part of the third left convolution, but not there alone, as M. Broca has stated. Notes of two interesting cases under the care of Drs. Lochee and Welsh were related, and one of the patients was brought before the meeting and examined. Transient aphasia and its probable causes, and a comment upon the treatment of aphasia generally, concluded the papers. The only two facts which would be established in relation to treatment were, that some benefit has resulted from the use of iodide of potassium when syphilis has existed, and that recovery from transient aphasia seems to have been greatly accelerated by blood-letting in one or two instances.

Mr. REID brought forward illustrations of Calculus Vesicæ and four cases of Lithotomy.

Mr. RIGDEN read a paper on the Relative Frequency, Duration, and Fatality from different Epidemics in Canterbury during thirty years.

Several pathological specimens were exhibited, after which the members dined together.

## REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

## CLINICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 1869.

JAMES PAGET, Esq., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

DR. BUZZARD related the case of an Epileptic Girl who became afflicted with acute rheumatism whilst under his care in the National Hospital for the Epileptic and Paralysed. From the fourth to the twelfth day of her illness, the pulse varied between 120 and 160, and the first sound of the heart was nearly inaudible. Quinine, opium, and brandy were employed with marked benefit; and during convalescence after the attack (which lasted thirteen days), the heart-sounds were found absolutely normal. The rapidity of the pulse and the inaudibility of the first sound gave rise to some anxiety respecting the heart, which was dispelled by finding that the temperature never exceeded 102.0 deg., and average only 100.9 deg. He thought the phenomena were due to neurosis, and not to inflammation.

Dr. DUFFIN communicated two cases of Acute Rheumatism, successfully treated by Iodide of Potassium. The first case was that of a young man, who had had a primary sore four years before, but no secondary symptoms. The rheumatic affection for which he was admitted into the hospital was of three weeks' duration. As the patient perspired at night, and the skin was several degrees warmer in the evening than in the morning, quinine was substituted for the usual alkaline saline mixture without good result. Some time after admission, he had exacerbation of rheumatic pain, which was accompanied with the appearance of syphilitic sores on his head and legs, thereupon he was ordered thirty grains of iodide of potassium daily, under which treatment the sores began to heal; the temperature became regular and natural, and the patient recovered. The second case was similar, excepting that the syphilitic history was more complete. In commenting on these cases, Dr. Duffin admitted that, in the first the syphilitic origin of the rheumatic symptoms could not be proved, and stated that he had brought them forward rather as illustrating the probability that there are cases of acute rheumatism which can be cured by iodide of potassium, and that these may be recognised by the diurnal oscillations of temperature which occur in them.—Mr. H. LEE expressed his doubt as to the syphilitic nature of the rheumatic affection in the first case, on the ground that the patient had had no secondary symptoms.—Mr. BARWELL was disposed rather to refer the cases to syphilitic periostitis, than to regard them as examples of acute rheumatism. He believed diurnal variations of temperature of the same kind as were observed in these cases and of equal extent, occurred independently of any unusual constitutional disturbance in cachectic persons. In the absence of more complete information on this point, he thought that such variations could not be regarded as evidence of acute disease.—Dr. WILKS adduced facts in support of the position that in tertiary syphilis it was frequently the case that the outbreak of syphilitic eruptions was preceded for many days by fever, attended with unnatural increase of bodily temperature, and expressed his belief that, in these instances, the pyrexia was attributable to the direct working of the syphilitic poison, not to any local condition approaching inflammation.—Dr. BÄUMLER had made observations which confirmed Dr. Wilks's statement. He had not only observed that in tertiary syphilitic affections the increase of temperature was out of proportion to the local disease, but that the variations of morning and evening temperature were exactly as described by Dr. Duffin.

A discussion followed as to the numerous cases in which syphilitic disease of the brain and of the viscera appeared to occur independently of previous secondary symptoms.—Dr. BUZZARD and Dr. WILKS (with whom the President coincided) had observed innumerable instances of this description, particularly with reference to syphilitic disease of the nervous system.—Mr. H. LEE admitted that in many cases the occurrence of secondary symptoms cannot be ascertained from the patient's statements, but stated, as the result of his own very extended observations, that the only cases in which syphilis appears to manifest itself in its ultimate stages of development, are those which have not been under medical observation from the first, and are therefore beyond the reach of scientific investigation.—With this opinion Mr. BERKELEY HILL concurred, referring to the extreme difficulties of obtaining certain information as to the previous progress of the disease in syphilitic patients.

Dr. BÄUMLER read the history of a case of Hæmoptysis followed by inflammatory changes in the Lungs, Catarrh of the smaller Bronchi, and signs of Infiltration and Fluid Effusion, and accompanied by intense Pyrediasis in a girl, aged 18, in whom, on the first examination, no signs of chest-disease could be discovered. After five weeks the febrile symptoms had entirely subsided, and after ten weeks no abnormal phy-

## MEDICAL NEWS.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.**—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, February 18th, 1869.

Atkinson, R., Coniston, Ambleside  
Gay, John Henry, Wisbeach  
Hunter, Frederick, Clapham

Nadin, Alfred Cutler, Sheffield  
Tay, Waren, Worcester  
Taylor, John, Sheffield

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

Kynaston, Albert Edward, Guy's Hospital  
Pippette, Walter, Westminster Hospital

**As an Assistant in compounding and dispensing medicines.**

Denney, Edwin James, Roughton, Norwich

**INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.**—The Military Secretary, India Office, presents his compliments to the Editor of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, and begs to enclose a list of the candidates for Her Majesty's Indian Medical Service, who were successful at the competitive examination at Chelsea, on 8th February last. Thirty-eight candidates competed for twenty appointments. Thirty-six were reported qualified.—Maximum number of marks, 3400.

Order of merit.	Names.	No. of marks.	Order of merit.	Names.	No. of marks.
1.	C. W. Calthrop	2730	11.	H. P. Roberts	1870
2.	A. Wood	2455	12.	C. W. Mackury	1840
3.	R. C. Sanders	2355	13.	C. T. Peters	1830
4.	E. Sanders	2290	14.	J. Backhouse	1820
5.	R. T. Wright	2260	15.	W. Price	1800
6.	G. McB. Davis	2220	16.	S. M. Tyrrell	1795
7.	K. P. Gupta	2175	17.	E. Calston	1780
8.	J. A. Howell	2160	18.	M. E. M. Murphy	1765
9.	F. P. Edis	2135	19.	H. J. Linton	1755
10.	B. Franklin	1985	20.	W. H. Boalth	1705

## MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are declared:—

**BEDFORD DISPENSARY AND LYING-IN INSTITUTION**—Surgeon.  
**BIRMINGHAM**—Five District Medical Officers (each £200 per annum, and £5 per annum for examining, etc., paupers and wandering lunatics); Medical Officer for the Workhouse (£200 per annum, furnished apartments, coal, gas, and attendance).  
**BRADFORD (Yorkshire) INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY**—Two Physicians; Resident Medical Officer (£100 per annum, with board and residence).  
**BURY (Lancashire) DISPENSARY**—Resident Medical Officer.  
**CARMARTHENSIRE INFIRMARY**, Carmarthen—Physician.  
**CLAREMORRIS UNION**, co. Mayo—Medical Officer for the Ballindine Dispensary District. (£75 per annum, exclusive of Registration and Vaccination Fees.)  
**CLEOBURY MORTIMER UNION**—Medical Officer for District No. 1 (£80 per annum, exclusive of fees for Vaccination, and for quarterly visits to Lunatics).  
**EDEN LODGE OF ODD FELLOWS**, Kirkoswald, Cumberland—Medical Officer.  
**EXETER DISPENSARY**—Surgeon.  
**FARRINGTON GENERAL DISPENSARY AND LYING-IN CHARITY**, Bartlett's Buildings, Holborn—Surgeon.  
**GRANARD UNION**, co. Longford—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc. (£90 per annum, and Vaccination and Registration Fees.)  
**HALIFAX INFIRMARY**—Surgeon.  
**HALIFAX UNION**—Medical Officer to the Workhouse (£130 per annum).  
**HOLBEACH UNION**, Lincolnshire—Medical Officer for the Gedney Hill District. (£50 per annum and extra fees, which latter have averaged £45:1:1 per annum for the last three years.)  
**LEEDS FEVER HOSPITAL**—Resident Medical Officer.  
**LONDON HOSPITAL**—Surgeon.  
**MALMESBURY UNION**—Medical Officer for District No. 2 (£50 per annum); Medical Officer for the Workhouse (£20 per annum).  
**MANCHESTER**—Junior Assistant Medical Officer to the Workhouse (£100 per annum, with furnished apartments, fire, light, washing, and attendance).  
**NEWHAVEN UNION**, Sussex—Medical Officer for Districts 1, 2, and 4, and the Workhouse.  
**PORTLAND TOWN FREE DISPENSARY**—Resident Medical Officer. (£100 per annum, with residence, etc.)  
**SHEFFIELD GENERAL INFIRMARY**—Assistant to the House-Surgeon (£65 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing).  
**SUNDERLAND INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY**—House-Surgeon (£100 per annum, with board and residence).  
**SWAFFHAM UNION**—Medical Officer for East Bradenham District (Salary by periodical computation, per case, with extras, and Vaccination Fees).  
**TRINITY COLLEGE, Dublin**—Professor of Zoology (£200 per annum).  
**WALLASEY DISPENSARY**—House-Surgeon. (£100 per annum, with furnished residence, coal, and gas.)  
**WEST HAM, STRATFORD, and SOUTH ESSEX DISPENSARY**, Stratford— (£100 per annum, with apartments, coal, gas, and attendance).

## MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

\***HARLEY**, John, M.D., F.R.C.P., appointed Physician to the Infirmary for Epilepsy and Paralysis.  
\***HUXLEY**, James U., M.B., appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Torbay Infirmary.

**TYPHUS FEVER IN LONDON.**—The Registrar-General's returns show that no less than 2,483 deaths were registered in London last

year from typhus fever, being an increase of 309 as compared with the number recorded in 1867. In 1864 the deaths reached the large number of 3,689, from which they declined in 1865 to 3,232, in 1866 to 2,681, and in 1867 to 2,174. These numbers, however, afford but an imperfect idea of the ravages of this devastating malady, as they only represent the fatal cases of typhus. If the statistics of the London Fever Hospital, showing the average number of cases to deaths, may be applied to the whole of the deaths registered from typhus fever in the metropolis last year, then, as every 10 deaths represented about 63 attacks, the 2,483 deaths from typhus in 1868 imply that 15,642 persons were attacked, of which 13,159 recovered. Glancing at the results in each of the five great groups of metropolitan districts, it appears that, of the total deaths by typhus last year, 265 were registered in the west districts—Kensington, Chelsea, St. George (Hanover Square), etc.; 700 in the north districts, more than 500 of which occurred in the London Fever Hospital—Marylebone, Hampstead, Pancras, Islington, etc.; 264 in the central districts—St. Giles, Strand, Holborn, City of London, etc.; 632 in the east districts—Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, Whitechapel, Poplar, etc.; and 622 in the south districts—St. Saviour, St. Olave, Bermondsey, St. George (Southwark), Lambeth, Wandsworth, Greenwich, etc. After deducting the deaths in the London Fever Hospital from the north districts, and distributing them proportionally over the five groups of districts, the following approximate results are obtained for the year 1868. In the west districts there were 2,148 cases of typhus, of which 341 terminated fatally, and 1,807 recovered; in the north districts, of 1,178 cases 187 terminated fatally and 991 recovered; in the central districts, of 2,142 cases, 340 terminated fatally and 1,802 recovered; in the east districts, of 5,128 cases, 814 had a fatal termination and 4,314 recovered; and in the south districts, of 5,046 cases, 801 resulted in death and 4,245 recovered. Comparing the deaths from typhus last year with the population in each group of districts, it is seen that the east districts suffered the highest mortality to 100,000 persons living—viz., 131.5; then follow the central districts, with a proportional number of 96.3; next in order of mortality are the south districts, 87.5; and the west districts, 64.4; the north districts exhibit a mortality from typhus of only 26.3 per 100,000 of population. The result for the whole of London is 79.4. The high mortality in the East of London would appear to indicate that typhus is generated with lamentable and striking results wherever human beings are badly fed, and are crowded together with an inadequate supply of fresh air. Last week the total deaths registered in the metropolis under the head of typhus numbered 59, of which about one-third was referred to enteric fever, a disease which often indicates the existence of defective drainage and polluted water.

**CITY OF DUBLIN IN 1868.**—The Irish Registrar-General's annual summary of vital statistics of the City of Dublin for 1868 records 8,004 deaths registered in that year, being in the proportion of 25 deaths to 1,000 of population. The epidemic and contagious class of diseases proved fatal to 1,862 persons, constituting 23.3 per cent. of the total mortality. The prevailing epidemic of the year was scarlatina, from which 424 deaths were registered. 408 deaths were caused by diarrhoea, 313 by fever, and 250 by whooping cough. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 1,302 deaths, exclusive of 957 by consumption. 196 deaths are referred to violence, of which number 73 were caused by fractures and contusions, 41 by burns and scalds, 41 by drowning, and 3 by suffocation; 15 deaths were homicidal, and 10 were suicidal. Only one death was returned under the head of smallpox. The number of deaths registered from scarlatina in each of the four years 1864-7 respectively was 126, 100, 109, and 259, so that the deaths from scarlatina in the year 1868 exceeded the average annual number in the four years by 275. Of the total deaths in Dublin in 1868 no less than 2,443, or 31 per cent. occurred in public institutions—viz., 1,136 in hospitals, prisons, and lunatic asylums, and 1,307 in workhouses. Of the 8,004 deaths, 3,076, or 38.4 per cent., were those of children under 10 years of age; 388, or 4.9 per cent., were aged 10-20; 1,274, or 15.9 per cent., were aged 20-40; 1,474, or 18.4 per cent., were aged 40-60; and 1,777, or 22.2 per cent., were aged 60 and upwards. The number of deaths under five years of age was 2,648, or 33.1 per cent. The proportional number of deaths of children under five years of age in London is about 42.0 per cent.; so that, if the mortality of children may be taken as an index to the mortality of the entire population, these results would indicate that the general mortality of Dublin, at all ages, was lower than that of London; but the discrepancy in the mortality of children under five years of age in the two capitals is, no doubt, chiefly owing to the defective registration in Dublin. The number of births registered in the City of Dublin in 1868 was 8,846, or 28 per 1,000 of population. In London the birth-rate was 37 per 1,000 of population.

## 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 Orthopedic 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 Orthopedic, 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**.—Royal College of Surgeons, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Construction of Vertebrated Animals."—Medical Society of London, 8 P.M.—Entomological Society.—Epidemiological Society.—Odontological Society, 8 P.M. Mr. Turner, "On Chlorzetherine."  
**TUESDAY**.—Pathological Society of London, 8 P.M.—Anthropological Society of London.  
**WEDNESDAY**.—Royal College of Surgeons, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Construction of Vertebrated Animals."—Obstetrical Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. Madge, "Case of Hydronephrosis of the Foetal Kidneys"; Dr. Brunton, "Observations and Remarks on Cases of Twins"; and other papers by Dr. Cory, Dr. Wynne, and Mr. Houghton.  
**THURSDAY**.—Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. J. B. Sanderson, "On Pneumonic Phthisis."—Royal Society.—Chemical Society.—Linnæan Society.  
**FRIDAY**.—Royal College of Surgeons, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Construction of Vertebrated Animals."—Western Medical and Surgical Society of London, 8 P.M. Mr. T. Holmes, "Some Remarks upon Lister's Method of Treating Abscesses by means of Carbolic Acid"; Dr. Martyn, "A Case of Extra-Uterine Pregnancy."

## 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 is 6d. each. By post, 1s. 8d.

**MR. FITZHERBERT**.—It is desirable that the Association should include all those persons who have attained eminence in other pursuits, but have been educated in and retain their affection for the medical profession. We referred lately to the honourable medical antecedents of the Hon. Mr. or rather Dr. Fitzherbert, Treasurer of New Zealand, a Master of Arts of and Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge, and Doctor and former Lecturer in Medicine. Mr. Fitzherbert has since intimated his desire to join the Association, and has been this week proposed for election by his friend Sir Thomas Watson.

## NOTE TO OBSTETRIC MEMORANDA.

THE case of Hand and Funis Presentation, recorded in the JOURNAL of February 13th, p. 141, should have borne the name of its author, C. S. Barter, M.B., Bath.

**MR. THOMAS WESTLY** (Sheffield) would probably get the information which he desires by applying to Dr. Letheby, the authority quoted.

**MR. SMITH's** (Bristol) paper shall appear on the first opportunity; but we have a considerable number of communication on hand of much earlier date.

**MR. FREDERICK ROWLAND YOUNG** (Swindon) forwards us a pamphlet descriptive of his cures by the imposition of hands. We have no sort of belief in this imposition.

## THE LONDON LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

**SIR**.—Will you kindly publish the fact, for the information of the members of our Association, that the directors of the London Life Association have refused to pay me for a medical report made to them upon the eligibility of one of my patients for life assurance. Upon application for the usual fee, I received an answer from the secretary, of which the following is a copy. I am, etc.,  
 Royston, February 13th, 1869.  
 D. B. BALDING, F.R.C.S.

"London Life Association, 81, King William Street, London, E.C.  
 "I return the enclosed, as the directors do not admit any liability in the matter referred to. I presume the demand should be addressed to M. S.  
 "Your obedient servant, EDWD. DOCKER, Secretary."

J. B. (Bermondsey) should consult a respectable family practitioner.

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

## AN APPEAL.

ASSISTANCE is earnestly entreated for the wife and children of Mr. E. C. Smallman, L.S.A., formerly of Barnet. He is utterly disabled by illness, and is in hospital for operation. The wife and three children are entirely destitute. It is hoped that enough may be collected to make some provision for the children (13, 11, and 6 years old), for whom chiefly assistance is sought. The mother is anxious to obtain a place as nurse, for which she is qualified, or in a similar capacity.

Subscriptions will be received by Dr. Barr Meadows, Dover Street, W., and by Dr. W. V. Pettigrew, 7, Chester Street, S.W.

Dr. Barr Meadows presents his compliments to the Editor of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, and will be obliged by the insertion of the following further list of contributions received for the Smallman fund:—Dr. Bull, Hereford, £1:1; C. P. W. Neate, Esq., 10s.; Dr. Barr Meadows, £1:1.

## THE ABERDEEN FEMALE LOCK WARD.

**SIR**.—I was glad to observe the letter from "A Student of the University of Aberdeen," complaining of the restrictions imposed upon the students attending the hospital practice in Aberdeen, by the well meaning but mistaken notions of the managers. As an old student, I quite coincide with your correspondent when he speaks lightly of the practical knowledge of Aberdeen students in the treatment of those diseases to which he alludes; and I can state, from my own experience, that many diligent men who have attended for several years at the Infirmary have left to enter practice without the least practical acquaintance with this important class of cases. I am sure that, if the students moved in the matter, Dr. Pirrie would represent their case favourably and successfully to the managers. I am, etc.,  
 February 1869. M.D.ABER.

**SIR**.—I have been attending the Infirmary for two years, and have only had two opportunities of obtaining any insight into cases of gonorrhœa and chancre in the female lock ward. No wonder they say these diseases are so common in Aberdeen, when the doctors are not taught how to treat them. I should like to know, also, why we are discouraged from visiting with the surgeons the closeted cases of diseases of women. When and how are we to learn to treat them, if not now?  
 February 1869. I am, etc., A PUPIL OF THE INFIRMARY.

## SPECIAL HOSPITALS.

**SIR**.—*Apud* of your last leading Article, on the subject of London Hospitals and Dispensaries, and the attention which has been drawn to them of late by the *Times*, allow me to make a brief provincial note. There is a general hospital here, newly constructed and possessing hygienic excellencies, officered by four honorary, two paid, and four consulting medical men, and having a sufficiently wide dispensary area. You should, at the same time, be made aware of the fact that this long existing and efficient means of affording eleemosynary medical relief labours under the prevalent complaint of imppecuniosity. It is so badly supported by the public that two only out of its four capacious wards are occupied. It affords "in" and "out" relief to those who seek it—whether adults or infants. It might be held strange, then, that yesterday a special Hospital for Sick Children was opened in this town; and cynical persons might be found ready with an invidious explanation of this phenomenon. But is it not obvious that when a young, modest, and zealous physician—distinguished alike in his academical and in his immediately and subsequent career—yields to the pressure of his compatriots, supplies the motor power, and, indeed, allows his name and private address to appear in the prospectus, is it not obvious, I say, that here is an answer to the question in your leading article, "Why should medical men give their time and services to all these people?" That answer is—all things, Sir, for charity. I am, etc.,  
 Birkenhead, February 9th, 1869. M. D.

**DR. R. P. B. TAAFFE** (Brighton), writes to us as follows respecting a new Children's Hospital at Brighton, which he says has been alternately praised and condemned by one of our contemporaries.

"I assert that no project has ever been started in Brighton which has met with comparatively so great an amount of public sympathy and support as has the Brighton Hospital for Sick Children; for, although it has been before the public but a very few months, the donors and subscribers already number over 220, the great majority of whom reside in Brighton; as yet, the County has not been appealed to, but it is quite anticipated that ere very long the hospital wants will command a building worthy of the town of Brighton, and an income of at least one thousand pounds *per annum*. The Children's Hospital is not in any way to be considered as in opposition, but rather as supplementary, to the other medical charities. First, take the Sussex County Hospital—it is true they have some beds for children, but, it is said, they are not all used. Why is this? Simply because there are no special arrangements made in the way of nursing, etc., to adapt the hospital to the wants of sick children; nor do I think it possible to have these special arrangements in a general hospital. The annual report of the Brighton and Hove Dispensary tells us that 15,000 persons have been attended either as out-patients or at their own homes. With such a number, how is it possible that children's diseases can have the necessary attention? Here it must be remarked, that the patients who are seen at their own homes are mainly under the care of the four house-surgeons (all young men), and that the members of the regular staff are only consulted on extraordinary occasions. Then, Sir, look at the time children must necessarily be kept waiting in the out-patients' waiting rooms at the above named charities. At the Brighton Hospital for Sick Children, more than one hundred out-patients have been seen from the commencement, some of them at their own homes. The hospital was opened on the first of last month, with nine beds; eight in-patients have been received, and, at the present time, there are six in the house. The lady superintendent, who gives her services gratuitously for love of the work, has been specially educated for the duties at the Ormond Street Hospital, in London; there is also a nurse who has been trained at the same admirable institution. The Brighton Hospital for Sick Children is openly supported by twenty of the most respectable practitioners of Brighton (many of them leading men), of whom two are medical officers to the Sussex County Hospital; two to the Brighton and Hove Dispensary; two to the Eye Infirmary; and one to the Lying-in Hospital. That is, the Children's Hospital is supported by gentlemen connected, as medical officers, with all the other medical charities of the town. In addition, more than fifteen gentlemen of influence and position residing in Brighton, who may be said to represent the managing committees of all the other medical institutions, strongly support the Children's Hospital. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and four others of the Managing Committee of the latter are also on the Managing Committee of the Sussex County Hospital."

