

(made on the high authority of Sir Thomas Watson and Dr. Hyde Salter) that the bodies of habitual asthmatics often present no morbid appearances. His own cases, at least, do not bear out this view; and we believe that few cases of patients dying after repeated attacks of asthma will yield negative results to the modern pathologist, armed with the microscope and chemical tests.

The chief value of these notes lies in the hints as to treatment, which are clear, discriminating, and eminently practical. It is just the book for a busy practitioner, who is driven to his wits' end by the obstinacy of some asthmatic patient. He speaks favourably of the compressed-air treatment adopted at Reichenhall (Bavaria), Montpelier, and Wiesbaden; judiciously as to choice of residence for asthmatics, giving a strong preference to London for the majority of cases; and almost enthusiastically of Mr. Pridham's dietetic treatment, and the use of nerve tonics and antispasmodics. There are special chapters on Bronchitic, Cardiac, and Hay-Asthma, and Hay Fever. *Apropos* of tonics, the following story seems deserving of quotation.

"An old gentleman, who, under the belief that his asthma was due to suppressed gout, and who was often told that he 'ought to have the gout', and had been thoroughly drenched with a variety of alkaline waters to no purpose, told me that, whatever he took, it must not be a tonic. The medicine he had, and the only medicine that he declared had ever done him good, was the tincture of nux vomica with dilute phosphoric acid; and we never entered upon any discussion again as to whether tonics were suitable or not." (P. 92.)

## SELECTIONS FROM JOURNALS.

**THE FORMATION OF UREA.**—Recent observations by Schultzen and Neucki of Berlin are considered by them to throw some doubt on the view that urea is formed from the albuminoid tissues through the different stages of oxidation represented by creatinin and uric acid. They found that, when glycocholic or leucine was given to dogs, a corresponding increase in the amount of urea excreted was observed; and they infer from these experiments that the protein matters, in their change into urea, are first converted into glycocholic. In order to prove their theory, they propose to give the animals benzoic acid, when the glycocholic will unite with this acid to form hippuric acid, which will then be excreted as such.

**PATHOLOGY OF ALOPECIA AREATA.**—Professor Rindfleisch of Bonn contributes a paper on this subject to the *Archiv für Dermatologie und Syphilis*. He starts with the assumption that the Microsporon Audouini has been proved by Pincus and others to be a myth, and that the parasitic nature of the disease has been inferred from the analogies which its development and clinical characters present to those of truly parasitic dermatoses. He proceeds to show that its characteristic features may be accounted for in a different way. It has long been noted that the margins of the affected patch in alopecia areata are devoid of those broken hairs which are conspicuous in tinea tonsurans; also, that there is a general thinning of the hair over the whole scalp. The former peculiarity is accounted for by the solution of continuity in the case of each individual hair taking place at the junction of the lower and middle thirds of its intrafollicular portion. The latter suggests that the operation of the morbid cause is not confined to the bald patches. A temporary malnutrition of the root of the hairs suffices to explain everything. Each hair, in emerging from its follicle, has to overcome a certain amount of resistance offered by the superficial layers of its sheath. Under normal conditions, the continuous cell-proliferation at the root supplies the needful *vis à tergo*. If this, however, undergo a temporary check, the hair ceases to advance, and the opposed surfaces of hair and sheath become adherent. Just below this point is the atrophied tract of the hair. When any such hair is pulled, therefore, it breaks at the bottom of its follicle, and carries with it a considerable part of its sheath. The causes of the malnutrition are to be sought in some influence brought to bear upon the trophic nerves. Sudden cooling of a perspiring scalp has been known to precede alopecia areata. Treatment based on these considerations has proved successful. A lotion consisting of equal parts of tincture of capsicum and glycerine is applied to the affected area: the former ingredient, with a view to stimulate nutrition and promote the growth of new hairs; the latter, to soften the adhesion between the hair and its sheath, and so to facilitate its extrusion.

**DONATION.**—Mr. Joseph Pease has presented £500 to the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Infirmary.

## NOTICE.

THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1870 ARE NOW DUE: and it is a matter of great convenience to the Association, and conduces to the efficiency of its working, that they should be paid promptly.—Members of Branches, and all others who usually receive circulars at the beginning of the year from the local Secretaries, will greatly oblige, and will prevent trouble, by PAYING THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE LOCAL SECRETARIES, AND NOT TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY.—All other members should pay their Subscriptions without delay to the General Secretary, T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, Esq., 13, Newhall Street, Birmingham.

Members of the Association residing in the counties of Middlesex, Essex, and Hertfordshire (except those belonging to country Branches), should pay their Subscriptions to Dr. A. P. STEWART, 75, Grosvenor Street, W.; or Dr. ALEXANDER HENRY, 16, Great Coram Street, W.C.

## BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH, 1870.

### WHAT IS SCROFULA?

THERE are few questions more difficult to answer satisfactorily than "What is scrofula?" And yet every one feels to have knowledge as to what the answer should be. He, at any rate, feels that he knows, even if he cannot express it in words; and he would be vexed at an interrogator who should press the query, and insinuate that inability to reply implied actual ignorance of the thing. "Scrofula? What is scrofula? Oh yes, we all know what that is. It is the disease which produces enlargements of the glands, white swellings of the joints, obstinate ulcerations of the skin, caries of bones, and so forth. It is the disease to which nothing does good, except perhaps sea-air and the long use of cod-liver oil. It is the disease in which, whatever organ may inflame, you must not deplete; which will not bear mercury, nor purgation, nor any lowering treatment; in which, under all conditions, stimulants and tonics are requisite." Such, perhaps, might be the reply which a large part of the profession would incline mentally to give, and upon which most of us probably habitually act. That it is far from precision, all admit. The difficulties, indeed, which attend the question, are such that not a few modern teachers prefer, we believe, to avoid the word, and reply to their pupils, when asked as to scrofula, "I do not know what you mean by the word." This reply is, however, not very satisfactory; for any student is able to confront his teacher with a case, and to say, "There, what is the peculiarity in this patient? Those are the conditions which in the country I have heard called scrofulous." If you take away that word, what other do you give me instead? The form of disease is certainly peculiar; and it is but reasonable that its special features should be recognised in its name." And, in point of fact, however desirous to employ no words excepting such as in some degree we understand, the hospital teacher is unable, at the bedside, to get rid of the word "scrofula." In the closet, he may ignore it; but not with the patient before him—unless, indeed, he do not shrink from being placed in the absurd position of acknowledging an effect without a cause. Without any doubt at all, there are a series of allied phenomena which are peculiar, which are clearly due to some long persistent peculiarity in the patient's state of health—to some *diathesis*, if you like the word—which was recognised by our forefathers under the name of "scrofula," and for which their successors have not invented a better one.

The attempt to give a definite meaning to the word in question may be made in any one of several different ways. We may try to group the diseases known as "scrofulous;" and then, noting their resemblances, construct a definition which should express them. This plan, however, could be scarcely more satisfactory than if a naturalist should define magpies to be mischievous birds, which are black and white, and have long tails. If much could be done in this direction, it has, in-

more than two hours, besides an interview of about an hour with the Duchess alone. It describes the careful examination, the anxious consideration, and the minute instructions and warnings which were given to the patient on each and every occasion. The nature of the disease, obscure at first, became gradually more apparent, through the scrutiny of scientific investigation; and was approached, if not quite determined, by a diagnosis, which would account for all the symptoms, and especially for the last unexpectedly rapid strides of the disease to its fatal end.

My conscience is clear that throughout this short but anxious and painful charge, I acted in good faith and to the best of my ability and judgment; and I have no doubt that the verdict of my own profession will be in my favour. It is with feelings of deep satisfaction that I refer to the statement at the end of this preface, which expresses the deliberate opinion of some of the most eminent and enlightened physicians and surgeons in this country.

The retraction and apology of the Duke and Duchess of Somerset in court, has 'frankly, and freely, and most unreservedly withdrawn' all those imputations in the libel which reflect on my professional honour and character. This is so far satisfactory to me, as an act of justice, albeit somewhat tardy. It is still more satisfactory to me to prove that all the charges and imputations were, from the first, absolutely without foundation; but it is far more gratifying to me—I feel it to be a positive honour—that throughout this painful and embarrassing trial, and amid opposing influences of high rank and noble birth, I have received the support and approval of those whom I most esteem and venerate in my own honourable profession, and of my numerous other personal friends.

CHARLES J. B. WILLIAMS.

49, Upper Brook Street, March 12th, 1870.

We, the undersigned, after a careful and anxious consideration of the case of the late Earl St. Maur, as described in detail by Dr. Williams, desire to record our unanimous opinion that Dr. Williams's view of the most probable nature of his Lordship's disease was correct, and his treatment of it skilful, appropriate, and in strict conformity with the established teachings of medical science. (Signed)

THOMAS WATSON, M.D.	WILLIAM FERGUSSON.
GEORGE BURROWS, M.D.	JAMES PAGET.
WILLIAM JENNER, M.D.	JOHN ERIC ERICHSEN.
WILLIAM W. GULL, M.D.	
RICHARD QUAIN, M.D.	
FRANCIS SIBSON, M.D.	

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE minutes of the Council meeting on the 10th instant, which we gave shortly last week, have been suspended in the College-hall. The further report of the Committee on Section XVIII of the Bye-Laws, in reference to the expediency of summoning a meeting of the Fellows annually on the day of the election of members of the Council was postponed to a future meeting of the Council.

The requisition, signed by two hundred and forty-four Fellows and Members of the College, and by two surgeons who were neither Fellows nor Members, was submitted.

It was moved by Mr. QUAIN, seconded by Mr. SIMON, and resolved—"That, in the opinion of the Council, the object of the meeting proposed in the requisition is a proper one."

It was then moved by Mr. CHARLES HAWKINS, seconded by Mr. ERICHSEN, and resolved—"That the President and Vice-Presidents be requested to fix a day and hour for the meeting of Fellows and Members to discuss the question proposed in the requisition." (The President has since fixed Thursday next, the 24th instant, at three o'clock.)

It was moved by Mr. SIMON, seconded by Mr. SPENCER SMITH, and resolved—"That every person desiring admission to the meeting be required to write his name and address, and that none but Fellows and Members of the College and reporters of the public press be admitted."

Mr. SIMON moved, and Mr. SPENCER SMITH seconded, the following resolution—"That, at the next Council after each meeting of Fellows and Members, or of Fellows and Members, an account be rendered of the number of Fellows and Members respectively present at the meeting, distinguishing the number of those resident in London from those resident out of London; and that a record of the minutes of the meeting be kept at the College."

A letter from Messrs. Dudfield and Welch was read, requesting the Council to petition the House of Commons in support of the Bill for the superannuation of the Poor-law medical officers of England and Wales. It was moved by Mr. BIRKETT, seconded by Mr. HEWETT, and resolved—"That the President and Vice-Presidents be requested

to draw up a petition to the House of Commons in support of the Bill, and that, when signed by the Members of the Council, the same be presented to the House."

Applications from Mr. Alexander Moseley of Albemarle Street, and Mr. Frederick John Roberts of Staleybridge, that the name of the former might be altered to *Morley*, and that the name of *Dudley* might be added to the latter in the College Calendar, were granted.

Mr. Manley, assistant in the Museum, was granted leave of absence for three months, to recruit his health.

A letter from Mr. Walter Rivington, Honorary Secretary to the Medical Teachers' Association, together with a report from that body, was read, and referred to the Court of Examiners to report thereon to the Council.

Messrs. A. G. Brookes of Shrewsbury, Samuel Parker of Sheffield, and Thomas Parr of the Army, were elected Fellows of the College.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: PATHOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL SECTION.

THE next meeting of the Section will be held at the Midland Institute, Birmingham, on Friday, March 25th. The Chair will be taken at 3 P.M. precisely.

BALTHAZAR W. FOSTER, M.D., } Honorary Secretaries.  
T. VINCENT JACKSON, }

Birmingham, March 16th, 1870.

### NORTH WALES BRANCH.

THE next intermediate general meeting of the above Branch will be held at the residence of Wm. Maugham, M.D., President, Northgate House, Carnarvon, on Tuesday, March 22nd, at 1 P.M.

The dinner will be provided at the Royal Sportsman Hotel, Carnarvon, at 4 o'clock, to suit early trains. Tickets, 5s. each, exclusive of wine.

Members having papers or cases to communicate, or who intend to be present at the dinner, will please to give notice, without delay, to the Honorary Secretary.

Beaumaris, March 1st, 1870. D. KENT JONES, Hon. Sec.

### METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

AN ordinary meeting of this Branch will be held at the rooms of the Medical Society of London, 32A, George Street, Hanover Square, on Wednesday, March 30th, at 8 P.M.

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

London, March 16th, 1870.

## REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

### ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8TH.

GEORGE BURROWS, M.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

INQUIRY INTO THE NATURE, ORIGIN, AND TREATMENT OF HYSTERIC DISEASE. BY ROBERT LEE, M.D., F.R.S.

In the first part of this paper, the author gave an elaborate review of the history of hysteric diseases from the earliest ages to the present time. The opinions and methods of treatment adopted by Aretæus, Galen, Celsus, Sydenham, Hoffman, Cullen, and the most eminent writers of the present century, were given in detail. Respecting hysteria in the male sex, the author stated that he had never seen a genuine example; but in the female sex, a great number—a greater number than it was possible for him to state. An accurate report of upwards of two hundred of these cases accompanied the communication. If these histories were examined, the author stated the following conclusions might be drawn. In none did the disease occur before the age of puberty; and in few after the middle period of life. In few of the cases recorded were the functions of the ovum and uterus in a perfectly healthy state. In the greater number, there was amenorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa, menorrhagia, leucorrhœa, or a morbid state of increased or diminished sensibility in the uterine organs, without any organic disease. The author added

having been recently engaged in handling morbid specimens or dissecting.—THE PRESIDENT concurred most fully in the views advocated in Dr. Hicks's paper. His own experience had led him to regard this disease as one produced in several ways; properly speaking, it was not an affection of an essential and special nature, like measles or variola. He believed that the proportion of cases in which puerperal fever was the result of self-poison was rather considerable, and that in such cases the disease was not seldom communicated.—Dr. HICKS having replied, the meeting adjourned.

## UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

### TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

FELLOWSHIPS FOR NATURAL SCIENCE.—Notice is hereby given that, at the annual election of Fellows to be held in October next, one Fellowship will be given at Trinity College for proficiency in the Natural Sciences. The examination will be held in the latter half of the month of September, on days hereafter to be fixed, and the subjects for examination will be those appointed for the Natural Sciences Tripos. The competition for this Fellowship will be open to any member of this University who shall have attained the degree of B.A., B.L., or M.B., and whose standing after such degree shall not exceed three years.

## MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday, March 10th.

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT.—Mr. Jacob Bright asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an English woman of the name of Elizabeth Holt was now, or had recently been, a prisoner in Maidstone Gaol because she declined to subject her person to the fortnightly inspection of a surgeon; and whether her refusal, or the refusal of any other woman, to submit to this outrage would be followed by repeated periods of imprisonment, so as to amount practically to perpetual incarceration.—Mr. Secretary Bruce said that according to the law on this subject, under Section 28 of the act of 1866, any woman subjected by order of the justices to examinations by a surgeon, and refusing so to submit herself, was liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour, in the case of the first offence for a term not exceeding one month, and for a second offence three months. In the case of this woman, she attended fourteen examinations, and was sent to the hospital five times suffering from disease. In January last, after repeated warnings, she neglected to attend the periodical examinations; she was summoned and sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment.

### Friday, March 11th.

REMOVAL OF FEVER PATIENTS.—Mr. J. Talbot asked the President of the Poor-law Board whether it was true that the carriage used for fever patients in the Westminster Union was usually drawn by paupers; whether on a recent occasion the men who had drawn a patient in that carriage to the special fever hospital at Hampstead were found by the medical officer there in a state of complete exhaustion; and whether the Poor-law Board had any means of putting a stop to such a practice.—Mr. Goschen said it was true that a carriage, if it could be called a carriage, in which fever patients were removed to the hospital in question, was drawn by paupers. When his attention was directed to the question he imagined it was an ordinary carriage with a pole or shafts, and that the paupers were yoked to it like beasts of burden. He sent his private secretary to inspect the vehicle, and it turned out only to be a carriage in the sense in which one of the moveable water-tanks in the parks might be called a carriage. He was also informed that the paupers who drew it received sixpence for the day's work, and there were always more volunteers for the service (laughter) than could be employed, because they considered the outing and sixpence a welcome break to the monotony of their workhouse existence. The foreman who accompanied the three paupers said he was not aware that any of them were exhausted; but stones had been laid down in the road, which made the work a rather more laborious task than usual. He must say seriously, as regarded the alleged exhaustion, that the guardians had informed him that no complaint had come to their knowledge, or that of the master, with regard to the men being exhausted or even fatigued, and Dr. Shaw, the medical superintendent of the temporary fever hospital, stated that they were fatigued, but not exhausted, and not more than might be expected from drawing a vehicle of that description.

The guardians have under consideration the providing a new carriage, to be drawn by horses.

ADULTERATED TEA.—In reply to a question from Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Lefevre said he believed it was a fact that large importations of tea, of an inferior quality, had lately been made, which was said to consist of tea made of the redried leaves of tea that had been already used. A portion had been seized by the City authorities under the City Nuisances Removal Act, and the question was now under the consideration of the City authorities. The remainder had been shipped to the Continent. He was unable to say whether that character of tea was in general consumption; but inasmuch as the Excise department had considerable powers for seizing adulterated tea wherever it might be found, he was not prepared to say that further legislation was necessary.

## OBITUARY.

### STANLEY PEACOCK, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Stanley Peacock, Senior House-Surgeon of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Infirmary, at the early age of 28, after an illness of two weeks, the result of a puncture sustained in making a *post mortem* examination. Mr. Peacock was a surgeon of much promise. He was educated at Dr. Mortimer's celebrated school in London, and afterwards prosecuted his professional studies at the University College, London, where he carried off gold and silver medals, and finally became Demonstrator of Anatomy. Mr. Peacock had been an officer of the Newcastle Infirmary only for a few months, but during that short time had won the confidence and genuine esteem alike of the Managing Committee, the medical staff, and in the highest degree of the patients who had been under his care.

### RICHARD BALCHIN, Esq., GODALMING.

AFTER fifty years of professional servitude, the above gentleman has been gathered to his fathers. He resided and practised in Godalming for the period of half a century, during which time he served the office of the mayor of the borough on eight different occasions. He twice introduced a deputation to royalty; and he died with the aldermanic gown on his shoulders. To many members of the profession he was well known as a large and generous dispenser of hospitalities; to his fellow townsmen his doors were ever open, and his advice and experience liberally afforded; and if, at the age of seventy-five, the loss of one of the oldest and most esteemed of her burgesses has to be deplored, the borough of Godalming can comfortably dwell upon the services which have always been freely and gratuitously given on its behalf. Mr. Balchin was a member of the Kingston Medical Club, and he always looked upon those meetings as the "Noctes Ambrosianæ" of his later life. He was also an old member of the British Medical Association.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, March 10th, 1870.

Crowther, William Edwin, Lorrimer Road, Walworth  
Esnouf, Charles Amand Evariste, Mauritius

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their first professional examination.

Martin, Richard Johnson, Manchester School of Medicine  
Smith, William John, Sheffield School of Medicine

As Assistants in compounding and dispensing medicines.

Normand, Claude, Shepherd's Bush  
Romano, Frederick William, Calthorpe Street

### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are declared:—

BALLINASLOE UNION, co. Galway—Medical Officer for the Killaan Dispensary District: 28th.

BIRMINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY—Resident Surgeon: applications, April 10th.

BRADFORD (Yorkshire) INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY—Two Resident Medical Officers, one for in-patients, one for out-patients: applications, 21st.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE DISPENSARY—Resident House-Surgeon: applications, April 4th; election, May 3rd; duties, June 7th.

CORK UNION—Medical Officer for the Cork Dispensary District: 21st.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, Caledonian Road—Junior Surgeon: applications, April 6th.

GUILDFORD UNION, Surrey—Medical Officer for the Godalming District.

HACKNEY UNION—Medical Officer for the South Hackney West District: applications, 22nd; election, 23rd.

**HARTLEY WINTNEY UNION**—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the District of Farnborough; applications, March 24th; election April 1st.

**HASTINGS UNION**—Medical Officer for District No. 2.

**HOLYHEAD UNION, Anglesey**—Medical Officer for the Bodedern District: applications, 21st; election, 22nd.

**LIVERPOOL DISPENSARIES**—Assistant Resident House-Surgeon: applications, 26th; Medical Board, 31st.

**LONDON FEVER HOSPITAL**—Physician: applications, March 24th.

**MALTON UNION, Yorkshire**—Medical Officer for the Rillington District.

**NEATH UNION, Glamorganshire**—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Central No. 2 District: applications, April 4th; election, April 5th.

**NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE INFIRMARY**—Senior House-Surgeon.

**RATHDRUM UNION, co. Wicklow**—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Rathdrum Dispensary District: 21st.

**ROYAL KENT DISPENSARY**—Three Medical Officers for Deptford; two Medical Officers for Greenwich; and a House-Surgeon.

**ROYAL SOUTHAMPTONSHIRE INFIRMARY, Southampton**—House-Surgeon: applications, April 2nd; appointment, 11th.

**ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, Manchester**—Two Medical Officers: applications, April 2nd.

**ST. PETER'S HOSPITAL FOR STONE AND URINARY DISEASES**—House-Surgeon: applications, 26th.

**STRABANE UNION, co. Tyrone**—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Strabane Dispensary District: 24th.

**THORNBURY UNION, Gloucestershire**—Medical Officer for the Almondsbury District: applications, April 7th; election, April 8th.

**TORRINGTON UNION**—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Shebbear District: April 2nd.

**WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Hammersmith**—Junior Physician: applications, 21st.

**WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL**—Resident House-Physician: applications, 26th; election, April 5th.

**WIGTON UNION, Cumberland**—Medical Officer for the Bowness District.

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

**CHALMERS, T. D., Esq.**, appointed Junior House-Surgeon to the Liverpool Northern Hospital.

**M'CLURE, Thomas C., L.R.C.P.Ed.**, appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Seventh District of the Bath Union.

**\*PRICHARD, Augustin, Esq.**, appointed Consulting Surgeon to the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

**\*STEELE, Charles, Esq.**, appointed Surgeon to the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

**TAYLOR, William Bramley, Esq.**, appointed Assistant Medical Officer to Camberwell House Lunatic Asylum.

### BIRTHS.

**BRIGHT**.—On March 14th, at 1, Westbourne Villas, Forest Hill, the wife of \*John M. Bright, M.D., of a daughter.

**LEWIS**.—On March 13th, at Loughton, the wife of W. T. Lewis, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

**OWEN**.—On March 12th, at Totnes, the wife of \*T. E. Owen, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

**ROCHE**.—On March 11th, at Chelmsford, the wife of F. E. Roche, M.D., of a son.

**SWIFT**.—On March 2nd, at Dover, the wife of B. Swift, M.D., Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, prematurely, of a son.

**WILBE**.—On March 5th, at York Lodge, Finchley Road, the wife of Richard H. Wilbe, M.D., of a daughter.

### MARRIAGE.

**HAMPSHIRE, Frederick K., Esq.**, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Malacca Straits Settlements, to Jessie Clara, third daughter of George EVEREST, Esq., of Wandsworth, at Singapore, on January 24th.

### DEATHS.

**\*BALCHIN, Richard, Esq.**, Surgeon, at Godalming, aged 74, on March 10th.

**BARNES**.—On January 1st, from an accident on his passage home from Melbourne, Philip Edward, second son of Christopher H. Barnes, M.D., of Brompton.

**BRENCHLEY**.—On March 13th, at Denmark Hill, Camberwell, Sarah, wife of Horatio C. Brenchley, Esq., Surgeon.

**FRANKS**.—On March 12th, at Sevenoaks, aged 77, Mary, wife of George Franks, Esq., Surgeon.

**KILGOUR, Patrick, M.B.**, 13th Light Infantry, at Gibraltar, aged 37, on March 1st.

**MAY**.—On March 1st, at Paris, Henry, second son of \*George May, Esq., Surgeon, Sidmouth House, Reading.

**PARTRIDGE, Samuel T., M.D.**, formerly of Barbadoes, at York Place, Portman Square, aged 73, on March 14th.

**SWIFT**.—On March 11th, at Dover, aged 10 days, Robert, infant son of B. Swift, M.D., Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals.

**STOCKER**.—On March 13th, at Montagu Square, aged 34, Mary Anne, wife of J. Sherwood Stocker, M.D.

**WATKINS**.—On March 12th, at Guilford Street, Russell Square, Margaret Elizabeth, daughter of \*Edwin T. Watkins, M.D.

**WOLLASTON**.—On March 9th, at Sackville Street, Piccadilly, Catherine Anne, widow of Robert Wollaston, M.D.

**BEQUESTS**.—Lady Augusta Vernon-Wentworth has left £100 each to the Beckett Dispensary, Barnsley; St. Mary's Hospital, London; the Cancer Hospital; and the Royal Hospital for Incurables. Mr. Thomas Parr of Grappenhall, Cheshire, has bequeathed £1000 towards establishing an Infirmary at Warrington. Mr. George Thomas of Bristol has left £2000 each to the Bristol Royal Infirmary and the Bristol General Hospital.

### OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

**MONDAY**.....Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 9 A.M. and 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

**TUESDAY**.....Guy's, 1.30 P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.—National Orthopædic, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Free, 2 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY**...St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Mary's, 1.15 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, 2.30 P.M.—Cancer Hospital, Brompton, 3 P.M.

**THURSDAY**...St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Royal Orthopædic, 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, 2 P.M.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.—Hospital for Women, 9.30 A.M.

### MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

**MONDAY**.—Medical Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. Frederick Simms, "On the Treatment of Psoriasis"; Mr. Coles will make a casual communication on Paralysis of Third Nerve.—Entomological Society.

**TUESDAY**.—Ethnological Society of London, 8 P.M. Mr. Campbell (of Islay), "On Current British Mythology and Oral Tradition."—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Charles Elam, "On Idiopathic General Cerebritis."

**WEDNESDAY**.—Hunterian Society, 8 P.M. Dr. Peacock, "Some Experiences of an American Tour."

**THURSDAY**.—Royal Society.

**FRIDAY**.—Quekett Microscopical Club (University College), 8 P.M. Mr. M. C. Cooke, "On Microscopic Moulds, illustrated by Diagrams and Specimens."—Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Greenhow, "Atrophy of Brain, with very Low Temperature"; Mr. Christopher Heath, "Imperforate Anus"; Dr. Duckworth, "Keloid of Alibert"; Dr. Handfield Jones, "Fatal Epileptic Stupor"; Dr. Leared (per Dr. H. Jones), "Artificial Respiration in Apparent Death from Epileptoid Fits."

### EXPECTED OPERATIONS AT THE HOSPITALS.

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL**, Saturday, March 19th, 1.30 P.M. Removal of Painful Mammary Tumour; Tenotomy for Talipes Equino-varus; Amputation of Thigh for Morbid Growth of the Lower End of the Femur—by Mr. Holmes Coote.

### 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.

**TO PURCHASERS**.—To insure attention, it is requested that all orders sent to the Office for extra copies of the JOURNAL, be accompanied with stamps for the amount.

**WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.**

**CORRESPONDENTS**, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course, not necessarily for publication.

**VIRTUE REWARDED**.—Certain members of the "Sons of Gomer Friendly Society" recently gave a testimonial to Dr. Morris, an unsuccessful candidate for the office of Surgeon to the society. It appears that the chief cause of their gratitude to Dr. Morris was, that he had caused a reduction in the medical fees from 3s. to 2s. 6d. per member, and had increased the mileage from five to seven miles. Though we cannot feel regret at Dr. Morris's failure, it is impossible not to pity his successful rival, who has to do increased duty at the reduced rate. Perhaps, after all, Dr. Morris's inkstand and gold pencil-case are to be preferred.

**AN A.B. and M.B. of Trinity College, Dublin**, who writes to express his disapprobation of the way in which Dr. McDowell has been treated, must append his name to his letter, if he wishes it inserted. Anonymous communications on such subjects are of little worth. We quite agree with the tenor of his note.

**M. T. (Sunderland)**.—There are many good works on Diseases of Women. Those by Dr. Graily Hewitt, Dr. Playfair, and Dr. Scanzoni (American Edition), may probably, any one of them, suit your purpose. We do not know of any one which is limited to the subject of Uterine Disease with Operations.

**THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.**  
**SIR**.—Can you kindly inform me why the examiners at the Preliminary Examination of the Royal College of Surgeons differ from all other Examining Bodies, in refusing to afford to the rejected candidate the cause of his inefficiency? It is clearly opposed to any sense of justice, that an institution receiving fees of a student should not place him in a position capable of appealing against their decision. The examiners of the Law Society have recently seen the injustice of such a course, and now afford every information.

Trusting you will kindly assist the unfortunate candidates for admission into the profession, and find a corner in the JOURNAL for insertion.

March 1870.

I am, etc.,

PATER.

**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.

**ON THE TREATMENT OF CERTAIN FORMS OF UTERINE CANCER.**

SIR,—My attention has been called to the paper of my colleague, Dr. Routh, on the above subject, published in the last number of the JOURNAL, in which he states that his knowledge of the use of bromine was derived from me, and goes on to say that I had informed him I had used it mixed with glycerine. In this remark, Dr. Routh is entirely in error: I never used bromine mixed with glycerine. In fact, I never used it in any form, except as a spirituous and watery solution. I was fully aware of the fact, long before I became a colleague of Dr. Routh, that to mix bromine or any other escharotic with glycerine would only tend to diminish its power. I take this mode of setting Dr. Routh right, as I had attempted to do so verbally on a previous occasion.

For confirmation of what I here state, I must refer your readers to the eighth volume of the *Obstetrical Transactions*, where Dr. Routh forestalls me, by reading a paper "On a New Mode of Treating Epithelial Cancer of the Cervix Uteri and its Cavity". He himself there states that I used bromine mixed with spirit of wine, two drops to a drachm. I beg to state I have used it in various degrees of strength, from its pure state to what I call my watery solution.

In conclusion, I may be excused for asking what practical difference or improvement is suggested by the author of the paper in the use of bromine in cancer of the uterus, as compared with my pamphlet on *Cancer of the Uterus*, published in March 1868, a copy of which I forward herewith. I am, etc.,  
A. WYNN WILLIAMS.  
1, Montagu Square, Feb. 21st, 1870.

**PROTRACTED GESTATION.**—The case forwarded to us by Dr. Percy Boulton does not appear to us conclusive, unless the "good reasons for being certain" can be stated.

MR. WOOD (Shrewsbury).—Your case shall appear.

**DR. O'CONNOR AND THE MILE END INQUEST.**

IN common, we believe, with the other medical journals, we have received from Dr. Woodman and from the Beaumont Medical Society, communications stating that they exonerate Dr. O'Connor (of Mile End) from any charge of dishonourable or personal motives in connexion with the evidence which he gave at a recent inquest. Inasmuch as nothing has ever appeared in our pages imputing such motives to Dr. O'Connor, these letters do not concern us.

In commenting upon the case, we stated that Dr. O'Connor (whom, however, we did not mention by name) gave a "hasty and injudicious opinion"; and we took the liberty of adding that, when "addressing non-professional hearers, he should have taken care that what was said was well founded, and should have carefully guarded it against misconception."

Nothing can be more clear than that our only charge was that of ill-judged communicativeness. Dr. O'Connor is of course entitled to his own opinion as to the impropriety of giving iron in pregnancy in general, and in this case in particular; but inasmuch as that remedy had been prescribed by well qualified medical men, we must repeat that he ought to have been very careful as to saying anything which the coroner and jury might misinterpret into censure of the treatment of the case. He denies having intended to imply such censure, and we gladly believe him; but that he was understood by them to do so, there cannot be the smallest doubt. The newspaper report of the case states that, after the verdict was given, and when Dr. O'Connor was no longer a witness, bound, as he might suppose, to speak out everything that he thought, he volunteered a further statement in defence of his evidence. Dr. O'Connor denies the accuracy of this report; but it, no doubt, conveys the impressions formed by those who heard him.

We are glad to correct one part of our former statement, which was written in the belief that Dr. O'Connor's evidence had twice led to an adjournment. We believe that he was not responsible for the first. In all other respects, we believe our facts were correct; and we have not a word to alter as regards our comments on them. We believe Dr. O'Connor to be a thoroughly honourable man, but that does not make us think that his evidence in this trial was cautiously given.

**A MEMBER.**—The last "Students' Number" of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL will furnish you the information which you require in a much more complete form than can be given here.

**DR. PRIOR (Bedford).**—Your paper shall appear very shortly.

**AMERICAN PATENT VENTILATOR.**

MR. THOMAS WINTER, of 96, Newgate Street, has introduced into this country a ventilator, known in America as Howard's Patent, or "Lesperance Ventilator", which appears to have met with considerable favour in that country. The air in the ventilator has to pass through three plates of perforated tin, a covering of sponge or wool, and a box filled with charcoal. Suspended organic matter is thus prevented from passing through it; and, when necessary, a portion of the damp in the air is absorbed and retained in the sponge or wool in the first chamber, and impure gas is absorbed by the charcoal in the second chamber. The air is rendered warm in the chambers through which it passes by being warmed by the heat of the room. From the formation of the ventilator, the air passes upwards and inwards, vertically and not horizontally; therefore there is no sensible draught. It is divided into numerous and continuous streams, and is discharged into the room like water from a fine rose on a watering-pot. The ventilator may be placed on one of the highest panes of glass in the window, in houses already built; but, when building, provision may be made to have it put in any convenient place, care being at the same time taken that no obstruction is allowed to prevent the easy withdrawal of the box of the ventilator, when necessary to do so. When it is found necessary to deprive the air of damp, the sponge must be placed in the vacant chamber under the box; and should the wind blow strong and cold directly on the mouth of the ventilator, the piece of flannel must be placed over the top of the box. At other times, it is allowed to hang down. Unless the air be over wet, the sponge should not be used. The box, as well as the whole of the ventilator, should be dusted occasionally. The ventilator offers very considerable advantages, and appears deserving of the attention of those specially interested in these matters.

**SEWAGE IRRIGATION.**—Mr. Hope, the well-known advocate of sewage irrigation, lately read a very able, and apparently impartial, paper before the Society of Arts. Mr. Hope met the economical side of the question boldly, and advocated irrigation in preference to all forms of precipitation and desiccation of sewage, on the ground that, when properly carried out, irrigation will be far less expensive and more efficient than any other known method.

**DANGERS ATTENDING LIGATURE OF THE SPERMATIC CORD "EN MASSE".**

SIR,—In the JOURNAL of January 8th, Mr. Wm. Monckton, of Brencley, relates a case of castration by means of the ligature which he placed around the spermatic cord, "including, of course, the nerve and other structures". The operation described by Mr. Monckton, reminds me of two different instances in which this procedure was followed by sad effects. I may mention that I was consulted two days after the operation had been performed by a blacksmith. In the first case, two young and valuable horses were castrated by the above method: tetanus set in on the third day, and ran a very rapid course, which terminated fatally. In the second, a score of sheep were operated upon in a similar manner. Irritative fever of a severe type followed in a few days, and destroyed twelve of the number; the others, being killed and dressed, were despatched to market for the benefit of the public. Ligature of the cord *en masse* is regarded by veterinarians as a very unsafe mode of removing the testicles. It may not be out of place to state that our experience in this department of surgery is very great. In my own practice, I invariably employ torsion, which has always been successful in my hands; and, in my own opinion, torsion has many advantages to recommend it. It must not be forgotten that, in the case mentioned by Mr. Monckton, the testicle was diseased; while in those related by myself, the organs were healthy.

I am, etc.,

JOHN A. MCBRIDE.

Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.

**THE IRON TREATMENT OF RHEUMATISM.**

We have received several communications in praise of the treatment of rheumatism by sesquichloride of iron, as recommended in this JOURNAL by Dr. Russell Reynolds. We select the following for publication, because its author appears to have had prolonged experience.

"Seeing in your paper of this date, a statement of the successful treatment of acute rheumatism by perchloride of iron, I beg to state that during the last twelve months I have treated several cases with it, although I was unaware that Dr. R. Reynolds or any one else had specially recommended it. The cases I have found it most useful in were those admitted to the Workhouse, where the attack had often been accompanied, if not induced, by exposure to wet and cold, and want of proper food. These cases appearing to me too weak to bear the administration of large doses of alkalies, I was led to try it at first as a tonic alone. Whether this is really its sole action, I must leave to others to determine.

I am, etc.,

JOHN WOODMAN,

Medical Officer, City Workhouse, etc.

"Exeter, March 12th, 1870."

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest:—The Indian Medical Gazette, Jan. 26th; The New York Medical Gazette, Feb. 26th; The Parochial Critic, March 16th; The New York Medical Record, March 1st; The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Feb. 26th; The Madras Mail, Jan. 4th; The Gardeners' Chronicle, March 12th; The Western Weekly Advertiser, March 5th; The Salford Chronicle, March 5th; The Northern Star, Feb. 24th; The Glasgow Herald, Feb. 26th; The North Wales Chronicle, Feb. 12th; The Wellington Journal, March 5th; The Yorkshire Post, March 7th; The Manchester Guardian, March 9th; The Birmingham Daily Gazette, March 14th; The Edinburgh Evening Courant, Feb. 11th; The Newcastle Daily Journal, March 9th; The Carlisle Journal, March 11th; etc.

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

Mr. E. Woodward, King's Lynn; Mr. G. H. Davies, Mortimer; Pater; Mr. J. Kirkwood, London; Mr. R. S. Crotty, Dublin; Mr. A. E. Durham, London; Dr. S. Monckton, Maidstone; Mr. R. Harrison, Ambleside; Dr. Cobbold, London; Mr. D. C. Timms, Stanmore; An A.B. and M.D. of Trinity College, Dublin; Dr. T. B. Bott, Bury; Dr. P. Boulton, London; Dr. R. G. Whitfield, London; Mr. J. Woodman, Exeter; Mr. Denton, Liverpool; Mr. J. Crocker, Stogumber; The Secretary of the Clinical Society; Dr. Phillips, London; etc.

**LETTERS, ETC. (with enclosures) from:—**

Dr. George Johnson, London; Dr. Wm. Roberts, Manchester; Dr. T. Clifford Allbutt, Leeds; Mr. A. W. Stocks, Salford; The Treasurer of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary; Mr. Savory, London; Dr. G. Oliver, Redcar; Dr. James Russell, Birmingham; Dr. F. P. Atkinson, London; Mr. T. M'Clure, Bath; The Registrar-General of England; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; The Registrar of the Medical Society of London; Mr. E. Parker, Liverpool; Mr. C. Steele, Bristol; Mr. J. Bateley, Southtown, Great Yarmouth; Mr. T. E. Owen, Totnes; Mr. A. Doran, London; The Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; Mr. F. Churchill, London; The Secretary of the Aylesbury Dairy Company; Mr. B. Blower, Liverpool; Mr. S. C. Homersham, London; Dr. S. Haughton, Dublin; The Secretary of the Ethnological Society; Mr. J. B. Stedman, Godalming; The Secretary of the Quekett Microscopical Club; Dr. A. Bennett, Edinburgh; Dr. Bell Fletcher, Birmingham; Dr. B. W. Foster, Birmingham; Mr. N. Heckford, London; Dr. Walker, London; etc.

**BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.**

Newport Odd-Fellows' Medical Aid Association.

Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Whitechapel District.

A Treatise on Medical Electricity. By Julius Althaus, M.D. Second Edition. London: 1870.

Reports on the Progress of Practical and Scientific Medicine in different parts of the World. Edited by Horace Dobell, M.D. London: 1870.

Three Letters on Medical Legislation. By J. Syme, D.C.L. Edinburgh: 1870.

The Second Annual Report of the Richmond Infirmary for 1869.

Report of the Medical Officers of the Small-Pox and Vaccination Hospital for the Year 1869. London: 1870.

Renal Diseases: a Clinical Guide to their Diagnosis and Treatment. By W. R. Basham, M.D. London: 1870.

Lectures on Ekzema and Ekzematous Affections. By Erasmus Wilson, F.R.S., F.R.C.S. London: 1870.

Report of the Resident Medical Superintendent of the Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, Dublin, for the year 1869. Dublin: 1870.