

his digestion impaired. Meantime, a seton had been inserted over the hepatic region, through the openings of which the contents of the abscess, in due time, escaped, part finding its way into the intestinal canal. In this stage, it did not appear that the mercury had been intermitted. The mercury and the seton, as far as I gathered, comprised the sole treatment. On May 31st, 1867, the man arrived in England as an invalid, and was admitted into Netley Hospital, where he was a fourth time salivated, apparently from the use of an ointment of iodide of mercury rubbed over his side. After about a month's detention there, he was discharged the service, and finally found himself under the care of Dr. Bennett. As may readily be imagined, he was reduced to a very low ebb from his grave diseases and their alleged remedies. His liver was much enlarged; the spleen also. There was a thick crop of rupiae, with numerous ulcerations, especially on his back. He had an affection of one testicle, and was affected with rheumatism. The physical symptoms of phthisis were also present, indicated by dulness under one clavicle, cough, resonance of voice, and muco-purulent expectoration. He denied having had syphilis; although admitting that, when fifteen years old, he had contracted a gonorrhoea.

Dr. Rutherford goes on to state that, in his paper read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society on January 18th, he asserted that there was not the slightest pretext for this statement, for the following reasons.

1. The man stated that, while ill in India, he had " poultices and tincture of iodine to the side;" " medicine with a bitter taste from a bottle;" "taraxacum in pills;" but he did not say anything about mercury. He said that the only occasion on which his mouth had been made sore in India or anywhere else was once in Jhansi, when he had a sudden attack of vomiting and purging, for which he had two pills from a native compounder, and afterwards a draught; he became better, and next morning his mouth was very sore. He was not salivated. He did not know that the pills were ordered by a medical man. The man stated to Dr. Rutherford that he had a sore on the penis in Jhansi; and his "medical history sheet" states that he was in hospital thirteen days, and was treated without mercury.

2. Dr. Corbett, under whose care the man was at Kussowlie from April 1865 to November 1866, states emphatically that during that period he never had any mercury whatever.

3. Certified copies of the official reports of the man's case written at the time, contain no mention of mercury having been administered to him.

4. It is utterly improbable that any medical man would be so inhuman as to give mercury to a man, suffering from a complication of serious diseases, who had been sent as an invalid from the plains of India to a convalescent station.

During the man's voyage home, he had, he said, "bitter medicine," "acid drops," a blister to the side, good diet, wine, etc.; but not one word was said about mercury. This is fully borne out by the medical record of his treatment on board ship. The statement that he was again salivated after his admission into Netley Hospital, is distinctly denied by Dr. Maclean.

Dr. Rutherford then comments on and repudiates the statement of Dr. Bennett, that "thousands of our soldiers have been so treated, and have had their health irretrievably shattered." A similar statement, he says, was made a few years ago, and was pronounced by a most competent and impartial tribunal to be wholly unfounded.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE next meeting of the session will be held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday evening, March 2nd, at 7 o'clock; CHARLES BLEECK, Esq., President.

R. S. FOWLER, } Honorary Secretaries.
E. C. BOARD, } Honorary Secretaries.

Bath, February 8th, 1871.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

AN ordinary meeting of this Branch will be held at the Charing Cross Hotel, on Friday, March 3rd, at 8 P.M.; T. HECKSTALL SMITH, Esq., President, in the Chair.

Mr. Fairlie Clarke will read a paper on the Medical Aspects of Pauperism.

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

London, February 9th, 1871.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SUSSEX DISTRICT MEDICAL MEETINGS.

THE March meeting of members of the above District will be held on Wednesday, March 8th, at 3.30 P.M., at the Sussex Hotel, Tunbridge Wells: CHARLES TRUSTRAM, Esq., in the Chair.

Gentlemen willing to contribute papers, etc., will greatly oblige by letting me know at their earliest convenience.

Dinner will be provided at 5.15 precisely. Charge 5s., exclusive of wine.

FREDK. CHAS. MUDD, Honorary Secretary.

Albion Villa, Uckfield, February 7th, 1871.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

FEBRUARY 1ST, 1871.

DR. BRAXTON HICKS, F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

THE PRESIDENT delivered an Inaugural Address.

DR. HEYWOOD SMITH exhibited a cast of the head of a child recently delivered by Cephalotripsy.

DR. PROTHEROE SMITH exhibited the pelvic viscera of a woman who had died from Spontaneous Rupture of an Ovarian Cyst complicated with a Fibroid Tumour of the Uterus. The patient had suffered from severe diarrhoea for eight months before coming under observation, and also from sacral and bearing-down pains. Before any treatment could be adopted, the patient was seized suddenly with severe abdominal pain and vomiting, and died in eight hours. An ovarian cyst occupied the right side of the abdomen, and the peritoneal cavity contained two or three quarts of dark-coloured fluid, which was seen pouring out from an opening in the cyst immediately behind a globular fibroid tumour on the left side of the uterus. Dr. Protheroe Smith alluded to the importance of early operation.—THE PRESIDENT said that there could be no doubt that many lives were lost whilst waiting, and he instanced one where another month would have rendered the operation impossible.—DR. PHILLIPS remarked that an American physician was so impressed with the importance of early operation, as to advocate, in certain cases, its performance through the posterior wall of the vagina, while the cyst was yet small.—DR. BARNES said that good might be expected from puncturing the cyst through the vagina by Dieulafoy's aspirator, and injecting it with iodine. He related a case in which this had been done.—DR. WILTSHERE said that, had Gastrotomy been performed for the removal of the ovarian cyst, he thought the uterine fibroid might also have been removed at the same time.

DR. EDIS exhibited an Ovarian Cyst which he had removed from a patient at the Soho Hospital on January 28th. This case exemplified the advantage of early operation. The adhesions had probably formed during the last month. The patient was doing well.

DR. PLAYFAIR read a paper on Irritable Bladder in the latter months of Pregnancy. He remarked on the frequency with which this condition was met with in the last few months of pregnancy, often giving rise to much distress and suffering, and being little amenable to general treatment. He believed that in many cases it was due to pressure on the bladder resulting from an oblique or transverse position of the fetus. Little or no benefit could be expected from drugs, but immediate relief could often be obtained by altering the position of the fetus *in utero* by abdominal manipulation, after the manner described under the name of "external version", by Wigand, Stoltz, Mattei, and others. He detailed three cases, in which the most severe forms of dysuria were immediately relieved by this procedure.—DR. BARNES said that, if it should be proved that dysuria was a symptom of transverse or oblique position of the child, we should have a valuable indication to correct the malposition before labour came on, by substituting external bipolar version under the most favourable circumstances for turning at the time of labour. He would ask why Dr. Playfair, having rectified the position of the child, did not secure it in due relation to the axis of the uterus? This could be done by a bandage and two pads, one applied to each pole of the fetus, and directed towards the median line.—THE PRESIDENT considered himself indebted to the author for pointing out the fact that obliquity of the uterus produced irritability of the bladder. He was, however, at a loss to account for it by the pressure of the fetus, as the head in ordinary positions would press quite as much as a shoulder, if not more, and that against the most irritable portion of the bladder, namely the lower portion. He would suggest another explanation, the disturbance to the form of the bladder by the altered

through the whole eight years of his university course, he may be said to have been a general favourite; and this respect he commanded, not by brightness of wit or by the display of the more ordinary fascinating qualities, but simply by the purity and the even tenour of his whole life.

JOHN HILL, M.D., DUBLIN.

IT is with much regret that we announce the death of Dr. John Hill of Dublin, who has been for many years Poor-law Medical Inspector under the Medical Charities Act. He had previously been Surgeon to the South-East General Dispensary, Dublin, and Physician to the Kilmainham Fever Hospital. His death occurred on last Saturday morning, after a brief illness, at his residence, Seaview Terrace, Donnybrook. Dr. Hill was for a long time Inspector of the Dublin Dispensary District, during which period his zeal, intelligence, kindness, and gentlemanly conduct, endeared him to the medical gentlemen with whom he came in contact—so much so that on his promotion from that district they made him a presentation, of which he has frequently expressed himself as being justly proud. We understand that the Irish Poor-law Medical Officers' Association intend urging on the notice of the Poor-law Commissioners that, in the new appointment in Dr. Hill's place, the claims of a member of their body should have the preference.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday, Feb. 13th.

THE VACCINATION ACT.—Mr. W. E. Forster moved the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the operation of the Vaccination Act (1867), and to report whether such Act should be amended. He did so in compliance with the statement made by the Home Secretary towards the end of last session, in consequence of a Bill that was introduced by the hon. member for Sunderland to amend the existing Vaccination Act, for relaxing the present stringent punishment imposed by that measure. There was but little chance of such a Bill being passed into a law; but it was desirable, if possible, to remove the objections that existed in the minds of some persons in the country, and it was to meet those objections that the Bill was brought forward. Government had not the slightest doubt of the advantages and efficacy of vaccination, but it was found necessary to have recourse to the law to compel its being performed. It would be pleasanter not to be obliged to have recourse to compulsion; but, unfortunately, an amount of ignorance prevailed with respect to the benefits of vaccination, fostered in many instances by interested motives, which it was desirable to remove; and statistics showed that the epidemic rose and fell according as compulsion had or had not been enforced. The committee might take into consideration many suggestions which had been made in various parts of the country for rendering the Act more effective than it was at present. The Administration of the Act should likewise be inquired into; and he believed when that took place it would be found that both the Privy Council and the Poor-law Board had done their utmost in order to prevent imperfect vaccination. It was intended that the committee should have full scope—that it should receive evidence of the operation of the Act in Ireland and Scotland, as well as England; and he hoped that, in justice to the public, the committee would feel it to be their duty to make their report as speedily as possible.—Sir C. Adderley opposed the motion on the ground that the present was a time when confidence should be expressed in the law, and not doubt. A commission had already inquired into the operation of the Vaccination Acts, and parts of the Sanitary Acts; their report would soon be laid on the table, and its effect would be that the law was complete, and that nothing was wanted but the carrying out of the law, which had been done only in an imperfect way.—Mr. Candlish, Mr. W. H. Smith, Dr. Brewer, Lord R. Montagu, and Dr. Playfair, supported the motion, which was put and carried.—The following were nominated on Thursday as members of the Select Committee: Mr. Wm. Edward Forster, Mr. Stephen Cave, Mr. Candlish, Mr. William Henry Smith, Mr. Muntz, Lord Robert Montagu, Mr. Jacob Bright, Sir Smith Child, Dr. Lyon Playfair, Mr. Holt, Mr. Taylor, Sir Dominic Corrigan, Dr. Brewer, Mr. Alderman Carter, and Mr. Hibbert.

ELECTION OF CORONER.—Mr. Goldney gave notice of his intention to ask for leave to introduce a Bill for the purpose of regulating the election to the office of coroner.

REGISTRATION OF NURSE-CHILDREN.—Mr. Charley gave notice of his intention to ask leave to introduce a Bill for the registration of nurse-children.

THE ROYAL SANITARY COMMISSION.—In reply to Sir C. Adderley, Mr. Bruce promised that in three weeks' time he would produce some of the results of the work of the Home Office, founded on the as yet unpublished report of the Royal Sanitary Commission.

Tuesday, February 14th.

LUNATICS AND HABITUAL DRUNKARDS.—Mr. Dalrymple moved for and obtained leave to bring in a Bill to amend the law of lunacy, and to provide for the management of habitual drunkards. The hon. gentleman said the Bill differed but little from the Bill of last session.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS BY SEWAGE.—Mr. Dimsdale asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he intended to introduce any general measure during the present session for the prevention of the pollution of rivers by sewage.—Mr. Bruce said he regretted to have to state it would not be in his power to do so.

LOCAL RATING EXEMPTION.—Mr. Muntz, in moving for leave to introduce a Bill to exempt Charities and Hospitals from local rates, said he did not wish to enact any new law or to repeal any existing one, his only object being to re-enact a statute of the 43rd year of Queen Elizabeth, one of the provisions of which had been set aside by the decision of a Court of Law about three years ago. According to that decision, charities supported by voluntary contributions were liable to be assessed to the poor-rate. Great difficulties had resulted from this decision, and not very long ago warrants were issued against a charitable institution of the kind referred to, and even beds on which sick and infirm persons were lying were seized for poor-rates. When the Irish Poor-law Act was passed, a special clause was inserted in it, providing that charitable institutions supported by voluntary contributions should be exempted from rates. Some persons thought a great principle was involved in this matter, and that it would be unfair to the taxpayers if all the property in a parish were not rated. He had, therefore, made the present measure different from that of last year in this respect, that the overseers be left free to determine whether a charitable institution should be rated or not. In conclusion, he moved for leave to bring in the Bill.—Leave was given; and the Bill was afterwards brought in and read a first time.

Wednesday, February 15th.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY.—Mr. Shaw-Lefevre gave notice that on Thursday in committee of the whole house, he would move that the Chairman have leave to bring in a Bill to amend the provisions of the Metropolitan Water Act of 1852, with a view to securing a better supply of water to the metropolis.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—The undermentioned gentleman passed his primary professional examination, on February 7th, 1871.

Coffin, Richard James Maitland

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, February 9th, 1871.

Cooper, George Joseph, Dacre Park, Lee
Robinson, John Desborough, Syston, Leicestershire

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

Dunn, William Allison, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Jenkinson, Harold, Leeds Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

BRISTOL GENERAL HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon (£100 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing): applications, to Secretary, 24th.

DENBIGHSHIRE INFIRMARY and GENERAL DISPENSARY—Surgeon.

DEVON AND EXETER HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon (£150 per annum, with board and lodging): applications, to Edwin Force, Sec., 23rd; election, March 10th.

EAST LONDON HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Ratcliff Cross—House-Surgeon: applications, to Ashton Warner, Sec., 21st.

GENERAL HOSPITAL, Birmingham—Assistant Dispenser (£40 per annum): applications, March 9th, to F. Fowke, House Governor and Secretary: election, 17th.

GLASGOW TOWNS HOSPITAL—Assistant Medical Officer: applications to Dr. Robertson.

HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, Soho Square—Physician: applications, to Henry B. Ingham, Sec., 18th.

KENT COUNTY OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, Maidstone—Consulting Surgeon: March 18th.

KERRY DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM, Killarney—Resident Medical Superintendent: applications, 20th, to the Under Secretary, Dublin Castle.
 NORTH ORMESBY COTTAGE HOSPITAL, Middlesborough—House-Surgeon (£75 per annum, and private practice): applications to W. Skinner, Coatham, Redcar.
 NOTTINGHAM DISPENSARY—Hon. Physician; Four Hon. Consulting Surgeons; Assistant Resident Surgeon (£120 per annum); election, 27th. Applications to Martin J. Preston, Sec.
 QUEEN ADELAIDE DISPENSARY, Bethnal Green Road—House-Surgeon (£100 per annum, with furnished apartments, coal, and light): applications, 28th, to Rev. T. Peckston, Hon. Sec., 260, Cambridge Road; election, March 3rd.
 ROYAL SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL, Guildford—Medical Officer: 23rd.
 SHEFFIELD PUBLIC HOSPITAL and DISPENSARY—Surgeon-Accoucheur: applications, 27th, to J. C. Hall, Hon. Sec.; election, March 1st.
 UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL—Assistant Obstetric Physician: applications, to John Robson, B.A., Sec. to Council, 22nd.
 WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL—Resident Obstetric Assistant: applications, 28th instant.
 WORCESTER GENERAL INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon's Assistant: applications, March 1st.
 YORK DISPENSARY—Resident Medical Officer: applications, March 4th.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, is 3s. 6d., which should be forwarded in stamps with the communication.

BIRTHS.

CLARKE.—On February 7th, at Gildersome, the wife of *J. C. Clarke, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

THURSTON.—On February 6th, at Ashford, Kent, the wife of *Edward Whitford Thurston, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

*CRAWFORD, Samuel Kirkes, M.D., to Sarah Futhey, niece of the late Patrick McConnell, Esq., Solicitor, both of Tandragee, at Elmwood Church, Belfast, on February 2nd.

DEATH.

HUNT, Samuel, Esq., at Sherwood, near Nottingham, on February 4th, aged 74.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.
 TUESDAY Guy's, 1.30 P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.—National Orthopaedic, 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, 1.30 P.M.—Middlessex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1 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.—King's College, 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, 1 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. Edwards Crisp, "Two Specimens of Inflammatory Croup"; Mr. Spencer Watson, "Two exceptional Cases of Cataract"; Dr. Prosser James, "On Chloral."—Social Science Association, 8 P.M. Mr. J. B. Curnen, "On the Laws of France relating to Illegitimate Children, Foundlings, and Orphans; and also those relating to the Registration of Births and Deaths."

TUESDAY.—Pathological Society of London, 8 P.M. The following specimens will be exhibited:—Dr. Morell Mackenzie, Constriction of the Trachea, with Syphilitic Deposits in the Liver; Growth in the Larynx of a Dog; Dr. Moxon, General Primary Colloid Cancer of the Skeleton; Syphilitic Inflammation of the Lung; Change of Grey to Yellow Tuberous of Lung; Mr. De Morgan, Tumour of Lower Jaw; Tumour from the Axilla. Mr. Wagstaffe, Fibrous Tumour of the Heart. Mr. Morris, Femoral Hernia, reduction en masse. Dr. Greenhow, Cancer of Esophagus, with a Fistular Opening into the Trachea. Mr. Tay, Contents of a Ranula. Dr. Marcus Beck, Spindle-celled Sarcoma connected with Posterior Tibial Nerve. Dr. Dickinson, Spinal Cord in Tetanus; Mesenteric Tumour. Mr. Weeden Cooke, Medullary Sarcoma of Skull, associated with Scirrhus of Breast; Scirrhus of Brain, associated with Scirrhus of Breast.

WEDNESDAY.—Hunterian Society, 7.30 P.M., Council Meeting. 8 P.M., Dr. Braxton Hicks, "On Intermittent Action of the Uterus throughout Pregnancy"; Dr. Pye Smith, "On Syphilitic Phthisis."

FRIDAY.—Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Gant, "On the Process of Occlusion in Arteries after Acupressure, with its Relation to the Treatment of Surgical Haemorrhage, and compared with Ligature and Torsion."—Quexett Microscopical Club (University College, Gower Street), 8 P.M. Mr. Leifchild, "On Sections of Coal and Fossil Woods"; Mr. W. H. Furlonge, "On the Minute Anatomy of Pulex Irritans."

EXPECTED OPERATIONS AT THE HOSPITALS.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL, Saturday, February 18th, 2 P.M. Ligature of the Subclavian, Operation for Varicose Veins, by Sir William Fergusson; Deligation of External Iliac Artery, by Mr. Henry Smith.

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.

"ANOTHER CERTIFYING SURGEON's" letter shall appear next week.

TARIFF OF FEES.—Dr. Styrap's communication has been placed in the hands of Dr. A. P. Stewart, as Honorary Secretary of the Metropolitan Counties Branch.

MESSRS. BUTLER, BARCLAY, HICKMAN, and WARREN, who offered their medical services to the German Embassy in August 1870, are requested to send their present addresses to Major R. Roerdansy, 4, Marine Parade, Dover.

A. C. K.—A non-registered practitioner cannot recover fees; and the question of the possession of a registerable title may be raised in this way, or by direct process founded upon affirmative information. Where a name does not appear either in the *Medical Register* or in the *Medical Directory*, the presumptions are unfavourable, and we should think it would not be difficult to obtain more direct information. Write for advice to Dr. Francis Hawkins, and then consult a solicitor.

J. L. wishes to know if he can anywhere in London obtain some vaccine lymph fresh from the cow.

A STUDENT (Salop) asks where he can purchase a small and inexpensive cabinet of specimens of the articles of *materia medica*. Messrs. Southall, Son, and Dymond, Birmingham, supply such.

ANTI-VACCINATIONISTS.—William Hitchman, M.D., addresses to a Liverpool paper the most astounding letter we have seen lately in support of the anti-vaccination craze. Belladonna is his favourite preventive; "Six daughters of one captain, all unvaccinated on principle, have had confluent small-pox, which proves its preventive power, and recovered from it." Small-pox has often, in his experience, "produced a beneficial effect in the arrest of development of those tuberculous affections of the flesh known in general by the name of consumption and small-pox." He knows a lady who is suffering from small-pox "for the seventh occasion"! and a surgeon so susceptible that he takes the disease *every time he attends it*. A large number of the highest medical authorities in Great Britain, France, Italy, and Germany, have personally told him that even lymph from a true Jennerian vesicle has been a vehicle of syphilitic, scrofulous, or other loathsome affection, to the vaccinated person, and notably of syphilis. In cow-pox as now propagated, we have an efficient poisonous cause for the raising of *latent* germs of inherited disease in the human organism. This horribly disgusting disease can be well-nigh exterminated by preventive belladonna treatment. Then why spread such a "dust of death" as vaccine lymph? This is the gist of a letter which we read with inexpressible pain, that a man signing himself M.D. should venture to publish to ignorant people such pestilent and dangerous trash, and lead them to ignore and disparage the sole and harmless means of safety from small-pox—Jennerian vaccination.

IN JUSTICE TO MR. WILLIAM POWELL, F.R.C.S. (Exam.), House-Surgeon to the Torbay Infirmary, we have to state that the *Lancet* is entirely in error in confounding him with Mr. Powell, whose appointment at the Tendring Union was procured by means of a forged diploma of the College of Surgeons, and was therefore subsequently cancelled; and who came before the public in the Farnham Union inquiry.

THE POSITION of "an occasional reader" is no doubt a painful one; he is, however, much mistaken in avoiding to consult his family medical adviser on the subject. It is impossible that anyone else should be in a better position to advise him. After hearing that advice, he must decide for himself, on grounds not purely medical, and which we should be going out of our province to discuss here.

SIR.—My attention has been called to the circulation by a London firm of a reprint of my "Note on Entire Wheat Flour," which was read at the Newcastle meeting. As I have no wish to be considered a "testimonial giver," will you allow me to say that this has been done entirely without my knowledge or sanction? When my note was sent to Newcastle, I was asked if I had any objection to copies of the note, after it had been read, being placed in the Annual Museum, with specimens of the "entire flour." I did not see any objection to this step being taken, though I expressly provided that the note should be marked "Private, for members of the British Medical Association only," and the note was so marked at the time, I know; but I see by a copy, which has just fallen into my hand, that this important feature is now wanting.

In reply to a letter I addressed the firm in question a day or two since, I received the following explanation, which speaks for itself. "We can assure you that we have acted quite innocently in the matter; and were under the impression that papers read at the Newcastle Congress were generally published in the local papers, and frequently reproduced afterwards in other ways. We have never in any way cited from the note as a testimonial from you, as we felt to do so would be an unwarrantable liberty; but we did not think there could be any harm in placing your paper in the hands of professional men, as a proof of the interest some physicians feel in the matter. However, as we seem to be mistaken, we beg to apologise, and to assure you that the note shall not be circulated for the future."

I value the good opinion of my associates too much not to be anxious to remove any misconception upon this matter, which, without the "explanation" I have given, might easily and fairly arise.

I am, etc.,

TILBURY FOX.

Sackville Street, February 8th, 1871.

OUT-PATIENT HOSPITAL REFORM.

SIR.—Will you kindly allow me to acknowledge in your next issue the receipt of the following sums towards defraying the expenses incurred by the Out-Patient Hospital Reform Committee:—Mr. Walter Coulson, £1 1s.; Mr. G. C. Coles, 10s.; Mr. F. M. Corner, 10s.; Dr. Ogle (Derby), 5s.; Mr. Royes Bell, 5s.

I think, sir, you will agree with me that this is not a very satisfactory reply to the question which I asked in my last appeal, as to whether the meeting that appointed us a committee intended us to pay all expenses as well as do all the work. We have already paid our fair share of the former, and unless other donations are sent to me at once, I must make up the deficiency—about £20—as the accounts must be paid forthwith. Other expenses have also to be incurred to complete the work which the Committee had in hand. I am, etc.,

27, George Street, Hanover Square.

ALFRED MEADOWS.

ST. ANDREW'S DEGREES.

SIR.—Being a Scotchman and a graduate of a Scotch University, I cannot allow your correspondent's (S. U. M.) letter to pass unnoticed, as I consider it a most unjust and ungentlemanly attack upon Scotch Licensing Boards. I beg, therefore, to inform those who are ignorant of the fact, that there is *no* degree or qualification granted to anyone unless he have previously undergone a course of study of not less than four years' duration, and nor unless he possess a thorough knowledge of his profession, both practical and theoretical. His remarks upon the graduate who has, through his perseverance, steadiness, and praiseworthy ambition, placed himself in the honourable position which he now occupies, I think too silly to comment upon; and if he have nothing more to say against him than that he has risen from a humble origin, I would strongly advise him not to waste his time in future, by rushing into print with effusions such as his last, which must appear to every right-thinking man uncalled for, and almost beneath notice. In conclusion, let no young man be misled by such blunders, for I can assure them that, unless they are prepared to stand a searching examination, they will find themselves among those who have been "weighed in the balance and found wanting."

February 7th, 1871. I am, etc., B. J. C.

SIR.—Your quotation from Dr. Leonard Sedgwick's remarks shews, I think, that there is very good foundation for the attack of the correspondent to whom he is replying. Engagement for five years in the routine of general practice, in addition to the possession of a Licence to practise Medicine and Surgery, is not, in the opinion of many, sufficient evidence of the candidate's having received that superior sort of education which ought to characterise the possessor of an University Degree. It is difficult to understand how the restriction, to which Dr. Leonard Sedgwick adverts, can in any way be an injustice to his University. The University of St. Andrew's possesses the privilege of granting its degrees of M.B., M.D., and C.M., under regulations precisely similar to those of the other Universities of Scotland. It possesses also an additional privilege, not accorded to the other Universities, of being able to grant its degree of M.D. to ten medical men, although they may not have fulfilled the usual University Curriculum. It already has, therefore, more power of granting degrees than any other University, and I think its Senate ought to be content. Some advocates of its recent proceedings have said that there is need of an Alma Mater, from which medical men of good position may be able to get the degree without going to College again; and such an arrangement is, perhaps, desirable. The University of St. Andrew's has no right, however, to arrogate to itself this important function without due consultation with all the other Universities of the United Kingdom.

I am, etc.,

HENRY R. WRIGHT.

Knaresborough, February 4th, 1871.

PROPAGATION OF DISEASE.

SIR.—As a Poor-law Medical Officer, I would call your attention to the following facts. A labourer's wife goes from this village to Cambridge to nurse a woman ill with small pox, and just prematurely confined of a six months' child. The woman dies, leaving two children and her husband. The husband has small-pox; and, when convalescing, leaves his home at Cambridge, with the two children and nurse, to go to the nurse's house (a very small low house, containing two rooms on the ground floor, occupied by the nurse and her husband), taking with them dirty linen, dresses, etc., worn by the deceased wife. The nurse has a daughter six months pregnant, four children, and husband living in this village. This daughter goes to her mother to help to wash the dirty linen of the small-pox patients, and takes her children with her. Fourteen days after the man's arrival and the nurse's return home, a grandchild, aged 7, falls ill of small-pox. Sixteen days after, the nurse's pregnant daughter falls ill of small-pox. This day, her husband is complaining of feeling ill. Can the Board of Guardians prosecute this woman for bringing small-pox into the village? It is not the first time she has done so.

Scarlet fever is also very prevalent here, and has been all the summer. The poor do not heed what is told them about isolation, and even send their children to school with the rash out on them. I had three children in the course of the summer brought to me from one school in this condition; and the master allows children to attend from the infected houses.

Ought not the sanitary laws to be put into force in every village as well as town? I have circulated printed notices, edited by Dr. Hardwicke, Medical Officer of Health for Paddington, but they take no heed, and go on visiting and taking their children with them to the infected houses.

I am, etc., J. BRIDGER.

Cottenham.

** The Sanitary Act (1866) makes these acts punishable.

LAY SERMONS.

OUR readers would have cause to reprobate us if we were to withhold from publication the following communication forwarded for that purpose by Mr. Robert Carr, Clerk to the Sanitary Committee, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Sir.—It cannot be too frequently impressed upon sanitary authorities that the primary cause of the outbreak of this dreadful disease (speaking apart from ordinary infection, of course) is the inhalation of the ammoniacal evaporation from the urine of diseased humanity—*morbis genitalium*. Nature never intended that these excretions should be allowed to stagnate in the open day. Their germ-life should be destroyed, else will their dire effects be produced upon the susceptible, who may be brought within their influences. Fever, measles, chicken-pox, etc., as well as phthisis, that scourge in all countries, owe a large percentage of their increasing mortality to the exposure of the same "element"—urea—in every bed-chamber of the world, and which element, acting upon the delicate fibres of the chest, whether in the human or the animal economy, produces more disease than any other ascertained "cause of death." The diagnosis is proverbially known to the medical profession, but not to the public scavengers, or the mother of a family.

I am, etc.,

ROBERT R. CARR.

LENGTH OF THE HUMAN FEMUR.

SIR.—Your correspondent, "M.D.", will find tables of the average length of the human femur and other bones in Europeans and Negroes, in Professor Humphry's *Human Skeleton*, pp. 105-110. Burmeister's measurements are given by Professor Carl Vogt, in his *Lectures on Man*, English edition, p. 179. More extended observations of this description, embracing a greater number of races, would form a valuable contribution to anthropological science.

I am, etc., Devizes, January 30th, 1871.

JOHN THURNAM, M.D.

MEDICAL CO-OPERATION.

SIR.—In your issue for January 22nd, 1871, I read an extract from the *Telegraph* with regard to the Provident Dispensary here. It was established on the first of January, 1870, and, by dint of great advertising and employing canvassers, has now four thousand subscribers, who pay a halfpenny a week for adults, and a farthing for children, and these have to be attended by the medical officer (assisted by the honorary consulting physician, a person of eight years' standing in the profession) anywhere within a radius of three miles from the town hall. The last medical officer left at the year's end, because, on his applying for an increase of salary, the committee felt that he was not popular, and allowed him to resign. Although many and loud complaints were made against him by the patients, I believe he did his work as well as he could, considering the disadvantages under which he laboured. The statement that "several of the Preston doctors have recently given up their carriages" is altogether incorrect. It is true that two doctors have died within the last two years. Perhaps this is what the correspondent of the *Telegraph* means. I may, in conclusion, say that the whole of the profession here express their unmitigated satisfaction of the year's experience of being released from the thralldom of club-doctoring, both in a pecuniary and in a moral sense.

Preston, January 26th, 1870. I am, etc., PROUD PRESTONIAN.

** As several of the Branches of our Association took very decided action in this matter in many counties a year or two since, we should be glad to learn what are the experience and the opinions of members as to the effect of that action.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The New York Medical Gazette, Jan. 28th; The New York Medical Record, Feb. 2nd; The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Feb. 2nd; The Madras Mail, Dec. 5th; The Shield, Feb. 1st; The Malvern News, Feb. 4th; The Southport Independent, Feb. 8th; The Kidderminster Times, Feb. 4th; The Redditch Indicator, Feb. 11th; The Liverpool Mercury, Feb. 13th; The Philadelphia Medical Times, Feb. 1st; The Clermont Chronicle; etc.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, ETC., HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM:—

Dr. Priestley, London; Dr. Braxton Hicks, London; Dr. Littleton, Plymouth; Dr. Moore, Dublin; Dr. Procter, York; Mr. Reginald Harrison, Liverpool; Mr. G. B. Denton, Liverpool; Dr. J. Simpson, Plymouth; Dr. Waters, Chester; Dr. Clapton, London; Mr. Board, Bristol; Mr. Savage, Gooch; Dr. Braidwood, Birkenhead; Mr. J. N. Stevens, Plymouth; Dr. Harley, Saffron Walden; Dr. Hardie, Manchester; Mr. Porter, Blackpool; Mr. J. C. Clarke, Gildersome; Mr. E. W. Thurston, Ashford; Messrs. Calvert and Co., Manchester; Mr. J. R. Walker, Corwen; The Secretary of the Hunterian Society; The Secretary of the Clinical Society; The Secretary of the Social Science Association; Dr. Phillips, London; The Secretary of the Pathological Society; Mr. C. Roberts, London; Dr. Aspinall, Huntingdon; etc.

LETTERS, ETC. (WITH ENCLOSURES), FROM:—

Mr. Erasmus Wilson, London; Dr. C. J. B. Williams, London; Dr. Sieveking, London; Dr. J. Crichton Browne, Wakefield; Mr. Waren Tay, London; Our Paris Correspondent; Mr. W. Whitehead, Manchester; Dr. Kidd, Dublin; The Secretary of the Obstetrical Society; Dr. Gibb, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. Hulke, London; Mr. Jessop, Leeds; Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, London; Dr. T. Boor Crosby, London; Dr. H. A. Gubbin, Gilford; 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; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Dr. S. K. Crawford, Tandragee; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. F. W. Brown, Uppingham; Messrs. Ansar, Harford, & Co., London; Mr. Worth, Nottingham; Mr. Wanklyn, London; Sir William Ferguson, London; Dr. Lionel Beale, London; Dr. Rutherford, Edinburgh; Dr. Maunsell, Dublin; Mr. George Freeman, London; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Dr. T. Clifford Allbutt, Leeds; Mr. William Adams, London; Dr. Waters, Chester; Dr. Gibb, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Discovery of the Nature of the Spleen, from an Investigation of the Lateral Homologies of the Liver, Stomach, and Intestinal Canal. By Henry R. Silvester, B.A., M.D. London: Churchill and Sons. 1870.

On a Localised Outbreak of Typhoid Fever in Islington during the months of July and August 1870, traced to the use of Impure Milk. By E. Ballard, M.D. London: 1871.

A Farther Note on the Alleged Increase of Lunacy. By C. A. Lockhart Robertson, M.D. London: 1871.

The Deformities of the Human Body; a System of Orthopaedic Surgery: being a Course of Lectures delivered at St. George's Hospital. By B. E. Brodhurst. London: 1871.

Practical Lithotomy and Lithotripsy. By Sir Henry Thompson. London: 1871. The Sixth Annual Report of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, 1869. Calcutta: 1870.

Lectures on Aural Cataract, or the Commonest Forms of Deafness, and their Cure. By Peter Allen, M.D. London: 1871.

On Transplantation or Engrafting of Skin. By J. Woodman. London: 1871.

The Physiological Laws of Human Increase. By Nathan Allen, M.D. Philadelphia: 1870.

Population: its Laws of Increase. By Nathan Allen, M.D. Philadelphia: 1870.