

COLUMN FOR THE CURIOUS.

TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY.—In a work on the *Practice of Medicine* by Sir John Floyer of Lichfield, published in 1710, the following savoury remedies are recommended in epilepsy, affording a good example of the therapeutics of the period. “The fetid parts of animals; powder of bore's stones, or of a horse, cock, ram, or man's skull; the powder of a secundine; blood powdered 3ss; the bones of a ferret's back; the spine of a fish. Take these with sugar in wine and black-cherry water for twenty days; drink four ounces of blood, taken in a warm porringer; the dung of a peacock; the liver of an ass; the coagulum of a hare; the powder of a swallow, raven, jay, cuckoo dry'd; the gall of a whelp; the liver of frogs; the warts of colts; crows' eggs. *Augenius* cured an epileptic after 25 with two ounces of sanguis musæ in vinegar 3j, musk in wine, human bones.”

JAMES SAWYER, M.B.

FIRST USE OF A MINERAL MEDICINE.—Legend has it that this was the oxide of iron. Melampus, who lived about two centuries before the fall of Troy, holding an augury to discover a cure for impotence, was directed to seek for a certain knife which had lain for a long time in a tree, where it had been stuck after it was used for sacrifice. The rust scraped off this, and given to his patient for ten days in wine, was warranted by a sapient old vulture to effect a cure. So says Le Clerc in his *History of Physic*, Book i, Chapter 19. He further adds, that Dioscorides employed it for a directly contrary purpose. “The rust of iron,” says he, “hinders women from conceiving.” But then Le Clerc points out that it was Melampus's patient who took it, and not the patient's wife.

SULPHUROUS ACID.—The earliest mention of this as an internal remedy that I find is by Van Helmont, who, in the concluding lines of his *Arbor Vitæ*, relates that, in the year 1600, reasoning from the preservative effects of a lighted match of sulphur on wine, he recommended the daily use of sulphurous acid in small quantities to a certain military man who was very anxious to prolong his life. Colbatch, in his *Essay on Alkali and Acid* (London, 1698), gives the following account of an interesting experiment with it. “An ingenuous person not long since, who had formerly embraced the doctrine of acids, was willing to try what effects the transfusion of acid and alkalious liquors into the veins of dogs would produce; accordingly he injected some oil of sulphur per campanam into the veins of one dog; which, instead of disordering him, made him brisk and lively, and very hungry. But another dog, into whose veins some oil of tartar per deliquium (a known alkaly) had been injected, it produced a clear contrary effect, the dog being lumpish and dull, and in a few days died. But it is to be observed that these two liquors were so diluted as to make them fit to be taken in at the mouth before they were injected.”

CORNEAL OPACITIES.—Among the remedies enumerated by Dr. Mead as useful for removing the above, we find “the dung or excrement of sparrows.” The homeopaths may get some encouragement from this; for in the book of Tobit, chap. ii, verse 10, it is written: “And I knew not that there were sparrows in the wall, and mine eyes being open, the sparrows muted warm dung into mine eyes, and a whiteness came in mine eyes, and I went to the physicians but they helped me not.”

OIL IN PHTHISIS.—Avenzoar reports that his grandfather cured a consumption with well leavened bread and sallet oyl, and that he did the same. (Riverius, translated by Culpeper; London, 1678.)

CÆSAREAN SECTION.—In the fifth volume of the *Edinburgh Medical Essays*, Mr. D. Stewart, Surgeon of Dungannon, Ireland, gives an account of this operation performed with a razor by a midwife. The wound was dressed with whites of eggs, and the mother recovered well.

GEORGE F. ELLIOTT, M.D.

LONGEVITY.—In *Price's Geographical Dictionary* (1759), at p. 380, describing Corsham in Wiltshire, there are the following sentences:—“As to the Healthfulness of the Place, 'tis common to see Grave-stone Inscriptions of 80, 90, 100, and more Years of Age; and not many Years ago a Fellow of the College of Physicians being accosted by some Aged Beggars, and inquiring their Age, one of them said he was above 100, and that another Old Fellow that stood by him was nigh *Zix Scour*; at which the Doctor expressing Surprise, 'twas told him, that the Christmas before Ten of them danced a Morris-dance, at a

neighbouring Gentleman's House, who among them all made above 1000 Years.” And at p. 1,401, “In the Article Coshim, [sic] we've noted the Healthiness of the Place, and the Long-Lives of People there; and we here add, that Advices from that Town, of Nov. 24th, 1752, assured thus: ‘Within this Week one Sarah Jarvis of that Place, aged 105, has cut Five Teeth; and, which is further remarkable, they say she has a new Set of Toes, her former ones having rotted off about 16 Years ago; and that vast Numbers of people from the neighbouring Villages resort daily to see her.’”

STANLEY HAYNES, M.D.

SULPHUR FUMIGATION.—Some of your readers may not notice the interesting fact that Homer, in the passage quoted from the *Odyssey* by Dr. Henry, incidentally furnishes evidence of the use of sulphur in fumigation long before his own time. This evidence is in the word *διαθείω*, I fumigate, or I diffuse sulphur; evidently compounded of *δια*, through, and *θείω*, sulphur (in the Ionic dialect, *θήιω*), from *θεῖος*, divine. The common words for sulphur and fumigation thus bear in themselves the evidence of divine power having been long before that date attributed to the sulphur fumigation.

T. M.

SWALLOWING THE TONGUE.—Accounts have been received from travellers of negroes committing suicide by “swallowing their tongues.” Some instances are given in *Notes and Queries* for November 1858. Can any of the readers of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL inform me (1) whether the anatomical connections of the tongue in the negro races differ from those with which we are familiar in Europeans, so as to render this possible; and (2) whether any well authenticated cases of death occurring in this way are on record?—W. FAIRLIE CLARKE.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE third meeting of the session will be held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday evening, January 18th, at 7 P.M.: CROSBY LEONARD, Esq., President, in the Chair.

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

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: PATHOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL SECTION.

THE third meeting of the Section was held on December 29th. Mr. FURNEAUX JORDAN (Treasurer) in the chair.

Communications.—The following communications were read:—

1. *Trephining the Occipital Bone.*—MR. GOODALL showed pieces of occipital bone which he had removed by trephining a fortnight before. The patient, a man æt. thirty-one, was kicked by a horse, and, when admitted into the General Hospital, he was found to have sustained a compound fracture of the occipital bone on the left side. The pieces of bone, which were lying on the dura mater, could only be removed by enlarging the opening with a trephine, owing to the loose portion of internal table being much larger than that of the outer table. There was no injury to the dura mater. The wound was dressed antiseptically, and was easily cicatrised. The man had no bad symptoms from the beginning.

2. *Uterine Tumour.*—MR. BARTLETT showed a pediculated fibrous tumour of the uterus which he had just removed with the *écraseur*. He thought that the safety from haemorrhage in using the *écraseur*, more than repaid the slight extra trouble in its application.

4. *Eczema cured by Vaccination.*—MR. LAWSON TAIT narrated two cases of infantile eczema in infants cured by vaccination.

5. *Cardiac Aneurism.*—DR. RUSSELL showed a specimen of aneurism of the heart associated with rupture of one of the segments of the aortic valve.

6. *Cystic Tumour of Neck in a Child.*—MR. C. BRACEY exhibited a congenital compound cystic tumour, taken from the body of a child eight months old. It extended from the thyroid glands to the back of the symphysis of the lower jaw, and bulged the submaxillary regions on each side.

7. *Tracheotomy.*—MR. BRACEY showed the larynx of a child four years old, upon whom he had performed tracheotomy for diphtheritic croup. The child recovered after the operation, and the wound had healed, but it died a month afterwards from laryngismus stridulus.

8. *Cancer of Scrotum.*—MR. RICKARDS showed a specimen of cancer of the scrotum which had been removed by Mr. Goodall from a patient

fifty years of age (a chimney-sweeper). The tumour began as a pimple, the head of which was picked off and a small ulcer left. The ulcer increased in size, and a mass formed behind it proceeding from its base, having an ulcerated surface the size of a sixpenny piece, with thickened and everted edges. It had produced no gland-implication, no cachexia, nor pain until a month before the operation, when it began to bleed. A section, under the microscope, showed the tumour to be composed of epithelium arranged almost entirely in the so-called concentric globes.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2.

JOHN HILTON, Esq., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Annual Meeting.—MR. HULKE read the report of the Council on the condition of the Society, which was considered favourable in every way.

MR. COOPER FORSTER moved, and MR. RENDLE seconded, the adoption of the report. This was carried unanimously.

Leprosy.—MR. SIBLEY exhibited, for Dr. Bakewell of Trinidad, some photographs of patients suffering from leprosy. The chief was one of an old negro, both of whose legs were affected, the right leg and foot being nodose, the left foot ulcerated.—DR. GALTON could hardly accept the theory of causation advanced by Dr. Bakewell, viz., exposure to cold—as it occurs frequently in the scrotum, which is ordinarily protected. Bandaging was the best method of cure applicable to the lower extremities. In reply to Mr. Hulke, who asked if the lymphatics were enlarged in the scrotal cases, the speaker stated that the only structural change he noticed was increase in the amount of the areolar tissue.

Syphilitic Disease of the Throat.—DR. KELLY showed, for Mr. Bradley of Manchester, a portion of the throat of a man who had suffered from syphilis. He was a prisoner in the gaol, and complained of difficult deglutition. After death, it was found that the soft palate was completely adherent to the posterior wall of the pharynx. The curtain consisted of cicatricial tissue. There was no epiglottis.—THE PRESIDENT referred to the case of a patient in his charge who came in unable to breathe or swallow. A membrane was seen at the back of the mouth, occluding the passage, and apparently without an opening. Tracheotomy was first of all performed, and the patient was for a time fed *per rectum*. After a time a small opening was found in the curtain, and by frequent small incisions they were ultimately enabled to enlarge it, and the patient had since remained pretty well, but with a tube in the trachea. Mr. Hilton considered it of great importance in such cases to open the trachea before doing anything else.

Foreign Body in the Lacrymal Canal.—MR. HULKE exhibited, for Mr. Hickman, a small body, said to be a green pea, removed from the lacrymal canal. The patient, a young lady, had a swelling in the corner of her eye, near which were two openings yielding pus. There was no interference with the flow of tears. The swelling was opened, and a small body like a green pea escaped. This was supposed to be a pea, which had made its way up the nasal duct, and so into the lacrymal canal. Mr. Hulke doubted that the body was a pea. (Referred to Dr. Bristow).

Intestinal Perforation in Typhoid Fever.—DR. GALTON exhibited a specimen of a bowel perforated by typhoid, one of the ulcers being situated in diverticulum from the ileum. The patient was a boy who had not presented any marked indications of illness. Perforation suddenly occurred, and he died forty-seven hours afterwards. The treatment was mainly expectant.—DR. ALLBUTT remarked that not only might perforation occur with very mild symptoms of fever, but that itself might give rise to no marked indications. In two cases to which he referred, pain, etc., did not occur for two days after the occurrence of perforation. In one, death did not follow at all. There might be extensive peritonitis without very marked symptoms.—DR. WILKS confirmed what had been said by Dr. Albutt. He was inclined to think that powerfully marked symptoms were the exception after perforation in typhoid. Spots occurred in about 80 per cent. of the cases. As to duration, the fever constantly lasted more than three weeks, and not unfrequently more than five.

Ulcers of the Bronchus.—DR. KELLY exhibited a specimen. The patient came complaining of slight haemorrhage from the lung. He was sent up into the wards, where he died suddenly, before he could be fully examined. He had suffered from syphilis. There was an ulcer over his vocal cords, and another in the right bronchus. The latter was very large, and had eaten into a vessel—a branch of the pulmonary—the inner coats of which seemed as if they had cracked and

given way. There were nodules in the liver, and the testicles were diseased. The ulcer was probably, therefore, syphilitic.

The Spinal Cord in Hydrocephalus.—DR. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT exhibited some sections of spinal cord from a case of hydrocephalus. They presented evidences of congestion and transudation. There was softening of the medulla, perhaps due to serous infiltration. There was a hemorrhage about the roots of the eighth. The spleen was enlarged. The clinical and pathological facts seemed thus to go together. DR. BASTIAN had pointed out something of the same kind. It was a question how far the tetanic movements might not have given rise to these appearances.—DR. CRISP thought these indications probably not be special to hydrocephalus.—MR. HULKE said that in the treatise of Billroth and Pitha dilatation of the vessels was spoken of. In a case under the care of the late DR. Todd, as far as could be made out, the vessels were dilated. He asked what the condition of the kidneys was in DR. Albutt's cases. In these the urine was like porter, and the kidneys intensely congested; so, also, in another case in Charing Cross Hospital.—In reply, DR. ALLBUTT stated that the kidneys were not examined by himself. The spinal appearances resembled those of tetanus, but was less intense in degree.

Syphilitic Disease of the Encephalic Arteries.—DR. ALLBUTT showed some specimens of syphilitic disease of the encephalic arteries. The patient had general syphilis, and died of it. He had made some sections of the brain and its vessels. The vessels seemed thickened, or, rather, their perivascular walls seemed filled with gummy matter. Several were thus united together into a mass. The appearances were something like those in general paresis.

Office-Bearers.—The following office-bearers for the ensuing session were elected, and a vote of thanks was given to the President:—
 President: John Hilton, F.R.S. Vice-Presidents: Edwards Crisp, M.D.; W. H. Dickinson, M.D.; R. Quain, M.D., F.R.S.; S. Wilks, M.D., F.R.S.; John Cooper Forster; John Gay; Jonathan Hutchinson; J. Wood, F.R.S. Treasurer: C. Murchison, M.D., F.R.S. Honorary Secretaries: W. Cayley, M.D.; John W. Hulke, F.R.S. Council: W. H. Broadbent, M.D.; W. Cholmeley, M.D.; W. S. Church, M.D.; J. Langdon H. Down, M.D.; A. B. Duffin, M.D.; C. Hilton Fagge, M.D.; J. H. Green, M.D.; J. Huglings Jackson, M.D.; R. Martin, M.D.; C. R. Nicoll, M.D.; F. W. Pavy, M.D., F.R.S.; F. Robinson, M.D.; H. Arnott; T. J. Ashton; John Couper; John Croft; D. Hacon; A. B. R. Myers; W. Potts; W. Squire.—MR. FAIRLIE CLARKE proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring office-bearers, which MR. SIBLEY seconded.—MR. CROFT proposed a special vote of thanks to DR. Dickinson on retiring from the duties of Medical Secretary.—MR. ARNOTT seconded the motion, and MR. HULKE said a few words in acknowledgment, DR. Dickinson being absent.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

LIVERPOOL.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The growth of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch.

THE Council of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch have taken steps at the commencement of the new year to endeavour to obtain an accession of members, which, if followed up in other Branches, would probably render the year 1872 memorable in the annals of the Association, by an unprecedented increase. This Branch is already in numerical strength second only to the Metropolitan Counties Branch, having upwards of three hundred and fifty members. There are, however, still remaining about nine hundred practitioners, resident in the two counties, who belong neither to the Branch nor to the parent Association. From this large number of outsiders the Council are sanguine of being able to obtain a considerable addition to their muster-roll; and, encouraged by the success of an appeal made at the commencement of last year, at the suggestion of the Editor of the JOURNAL, which brought in upwards of fifty new subscribers, they have decided again to issue a new circular, signed by the Branch President and Secretary, briefly pointing out the advantages and privileges of membership, as regards both the Branch and the general Association, a copy of which has been sent to every qualified practitioner in the district who is not a member. In drawing up this document due care has been taken to guard against a difficulty in which the Council, as the electing body, might be placed, in the event of applications from persons who, although on the *Medical Register*, might for special reasons be ineligible as members of the Association, a precaution obviously necessary when the names of candidates

separate fees of five shillings, and being paid a guinea and seeing the patient half a dozen times afterwards if necessary. In the latter instance, the patient is probably the gainer in the end. But, supposing that there are some who really wish to obtain good advice, and who cannot pay a "guinea fee", I assert that every day such difficulty is decreasing, and, indeed, in most large towns does not now exist. The provident dispensary system now rapidly being developed, and the club system under recent improvements, place all that is required within the reach of this class, enabling them thus collectively to remunerate in a legitimate form the medical adviser, at the same time sparing him the pain of feeling that in accepting "silver fees" he is lowering a noble profession, and rendering his social position doubtful.

I fear I have already trespassed too much on your time and space; and I shall not at present intrude further than to say that, having had long experience of Ireland, I do not believe that the establishment of five-shilling fees would diminish the number of "red tickets"; and I see no reason why the provident system should not be carried into effect in Ireland as in England.

I am, etc., RESPONSPOR.

P.S.—I have not referred to the system of the "family physician" as adopted in England, and which is not much adopted in Ireland, by which the amount due for attendance is stated half-yearly, and settled. This system also tends largely to obviate the necessity of accepting "silver fees."

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, January 4th, 1872.

Butler, William John, Delamere Crescent, W.

Thompson, Francis Henry, Tenbury, Worcestershire

As an Assistant in compounding and dispensing medicines.
Hockenhull, Philip Hall, Macclesfield

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

CALNE UNION, Wilts—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the entire Union: £200 per annum, and Vaccination Fees.

CANCER HOSPITAL, Brompton—Resident House-Surgeon: £52:10 per annum, board and residence.

CHESTER GENERAL INFIRMARY—Visiting Surgeon: £80 per annum, board, apartments, and washing.

COOTEHILL UNION, co. Cavan—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Drum Dispensary District: £85 per ann., and fees.

CROYDON UNION—Medical Officer for District No. 3: £100 per annum, and extra fees.

DUNDEE ROYAL INFIRMARY—Surgeon to the East Dispensary District.

EAST SUSSEX, HASTINGS, and ST. LEONARD'S INFIRMARY—Assistant Surgeon.

ECCLESFIELD BIERLOW UNION, Yorkshire—Medical Officer for District No. 2: £57:10 per annum, and extra fees. Public Vaccinator for the First Vaccination District.

GENERAL HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY FOR SICK CHILDREN, Manchester—Resident Medical Officer: £100 per annum, residence and board.

LIVERPOOL DISPENSARIES—Honorary Medical Officer, North Dispensary.

LOYAL UNITED BRETHREN BENEFIT SOCIETY—Surgeon and Apothecary: £60 per annum.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL—Resident Obstetric Physicians' Assistant.

MILE END OLD TOWN—Medical Officer for the Western District: £250 per annum.

MULLINGAR UNION, co. Westmeath—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Multyfarnham Dispensary District: £100 per annum, and fees.

POCKLINGTON UNION, Yorkshire—Medical Officer for the Pocklington No. 2 District: £50 per annum, and extra fees.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, Ireland—Professor of Chemistry, Queen's College, Cork.

ROYAL CORNWALL INFIRMARY, Truro—House-Surgeon, Secretary, and Dispenser: £120 per annum (rising £10 per annum for three years), furnished apartments, firing, gas, and attendance.

ROYAL UNITED HOSPITAL, Bath—Resident Medical Officer: £100 per annum, board and lodgings.

ST. PANCRAS, Middlesex—Medical Officer for District No. 7: £100 per annum.

SUNDERLAND INFIRMARY—Junior House-Surgeon: £60 per annum, board, lodgings, and washing.

TUAM UNION, co. Galway—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Headford Dispensary District: £120 per ann., and fees.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

BRYAN, E., Esq., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the No. 6 (Idle) District of the North Bierley Union, Yorkshire, *vice* Hodgson, resigned.

CREAN, Charles Edward, L. K. Q. C. P. Irel., appointed Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Ballyhaunis Dispensary District of the Claremorris Union, co. Mayo.

CROCKER, James, Esq., appointed Medical Officer for the Bingley District of the Keighley Union.

HARVEY, Henry, M. B., appointed House-Surgeon to the Liverpool Southern Hospital, *vice* W. Little, M. D., resigned.

IRELAND, Arthur Joseph, M. D., appointed Medical Officer, etc., for the Ardrahan Dispensary District of the Gort Union, co. Galway.

MAGILL, W., Esq., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the East District of the Belford Union, Northumberland.

O'SULLIVAN, Stephen, M. D., elected Medical Officer, etc., for the Blackrock Sub-district of the Cork Dispensary District, Cork Union.

SANDWELL, Edward, Esq., appointed Medical Officer to St. Andrew's Home for Boys, Soho.

***TROLLOPE, Thomas, M. D. Cantab.**, appointed Physician to the East Sussex, Hastings, and St. Leonard's Infirmary, *vice* Dunne, resigned.

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.

DEATHS.

BEARPARK, George E., Esq., Surgeon, at Leeds, aged 66, on December 27th.

BESEMERS, W. M., M. D., at Dolé, Llanbadarn-fawr, Aberystwith, aged 74, on December 29th, 1871.

POPHAM, William Home, Esq., M. D., of Gawler, South Australia, on October 20th, 1871.

SAUNDERS.—On January 5th, at the Devon County Asylum, the infant son of

*George Symes Saunders, M. B., aged five months.

DONATIONS, BEQUESTS, ETC.—“A Friend” has given £10,000 to the London Hospital.—“H. G. V.” has given £1000 to the Royal Hospital for Incurables.—Mr. Frederick Sheppard has given £500 to the Cancer Hospital, Brompton.—Mr. John Green, formerly of Gloucester and late of Cheltenham, has bequeathed £500 to the Gloucester Infirmary, £200 to the Gloucester Dispensary, and £100 to the Gloucestershire Eye Institution.—Miss Ann Lovell, late of Norwich, has bequeathed £200 to the County Hospital, Winchester.—Sir John W. Ramsden, Bart., of Arderwicke, has given £100 towards the addition now being made to the Infirmary at Inverness.—Mr. Job Richards has sent £190 to the Rotherham Hospital and Dispensary, being the amount subscribed towards the Building Fund by the workmen at Parkgate Iron Works.—The Grocers' Company have given £50 to the Hospital for Women, Soho Square.—Mrs. Kepp, of Edgbaston, has given £500 to the Women's Hospital, Birmingham.—Mr. R. Atton, of Taunton St. James, has bequeathed £500 to the Cancer Hospital, and a share of the “residue” of his estate to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.—Mr. T. Fisher, of Buxton, has bequeathed £100 each to the Sheffield General Infirmary, and the Sheffield Public Hospital and Dispensary.—Mr. J. J. Grieve and Mrs. Sinclair have each signified their intention of contributing £500 towards paying the debt on the Greenock Infirmary.—The Dundee Royal Infirmary has received £187:7:9 from the workers of Messrs. Cox Brothers, Camperdown Linen Works, Lochee.—The Sheffield General Infirmary has received £100 (less duty) under the will of Mr. Henry Newbould.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.—The list of medical officers in London has been remodelled and enlarged as follows:—Medical officer to the department, Waller Lewis, M. B. Cantab. Divisional medical officers: Telegraph, comprising chief and other telegraph offices in the Eastern Central district, G. C. Steet, Esq., Telegraph Street; Western Central district, John R. Gibson, Esq., Russell Square; Islington, comprising Islington, Highbury, and Holloway, A. D. Harston, Esq., Liverpool Road; Camden Town, comprising the North-western district and St. John's Wood, W. Adams, Esq., Harrington Square; Hampstead and Kilburn, J. Ford Anderson, M. D., Buckland Crescent; Paddington and Maida Hill, J. B. Walker, Esq., Clifton Gardens; Kensington, comprising Kensington (other than South Kensington) and Notting Hill, Thos. Sheldon, M. D., Cornwall Road; Marylebone, L. Hare, Esq., Princes Street, Cavendish Square; Westminster, including the South-western district (as formerly), Brompton, and South Kensington, James Sharp, Esq., Grosvenor Street West; Lambeth, Clapham, Battersea, and Stockwell, Harvey K. Owen, M. D., Clapham Road; Camberwell and Peckham, Messrs. Griffith and Philips, Camberwell and Peckham; Kennington, J. W. Robinson, M. D., Kennington Road; Southwark, comprising the South-eastern district (as formerly) and Rotherhithe, A. Ebsworth, Esq., Trinity Street; Greenwich, Blackheath, Deptford, Lee, and Lewisham, Thomas Creed, M. D., Greenwich; Docks, comprising the Eastern district (as formerly), Poplar, Bow, and Victoria Docks, H. Taynton, Esq., Bedford Place, Commercial Road East; Hackney, Bethnal Green, and Homerton, Messrs. Wallace and Wallace, Hackney Road.

WEST KENT MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting of this Society on Friday, January 5th—Mr. J. M. Burton, President, in the chair—Dr. G. Johnson read a paper on the Pathology and Treatment of Cholera, in which he enunciated his well known views of that disease, and defended them from attacks. Drs. Clapton, Carr, Dixon, Venables, Gooding, and Moon, and Mr. Mitchell, took part in the discussion which followed.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

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

WEDNESDAY.. St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Mary's, 1.30 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.—King's College, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 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.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.

FRIDAY Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Royal South London Ophthalmic Hospital, 2 P.M.

SATURDAY.... 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.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 9.30 A.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.—Medical Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. Chapman, "On the Pathology and Treatment of Neuralgia and its Kindred Disorders."

TUESDAY.—Pathological Society of London, 8 P.M. The following specimens will be exhibited:—Mr. Arnott's Case of Tumour of the Testicle (Report). Dr. Southey's Case of Disease of Suprarenal Capsules (Report). Mr. A. Norton: Malignant Growth of Femur. Mr. Lawson: Sequel of a Case of Blood Cyst. Dr. Leared: Renal Calculi of Cystic Oxide. Dr. Thoroughgood: Salivary Calculus. Dr. Greenhow: Excavation of Lung, with arrest of the Disease. Dr. Greenhow: Complete Destruction of One Lung by non-Tubercular Excavation. Dr. King: Embolism of the Middle Cerebral Artery associated with Aneurism of the Aorta.

THURSDAY.—Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. Mr. W. Fairlie Clarke, "Syphilis as it affects the Tongue."

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 halfpenny stamps for the amount.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

For replies to questions concerning Poor-law medical questions, see Poor law Medical Department, under charge of Mr. Benson Baker, London, and Dr. Maunsell, Dublin.

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

WE are greatly indebted to Mr. Ceely, Aylesbury, for the kindness and care with which he has analysed the papers submitted to his experienced judgment.

THERMOMETER.—1. There is a very complete and accurate table of French weights and measures at page 313 of *Whitaker's Almanack* for the present year. A table of the same kind is also given in *Spiers's French and English Dictionary*.—2. The agent of the Society, Mr. H. K. Lewis, 136, Gower Street, would be able to afford information on the subject.

MR. W. J. KITE (West Bromwich).—Duly received last week.

DR. ELLIOTT (Hull) writes:—In a foot-note to Dr. Basham's introductory address, published in the JOURNAL of October 7th, there is the following: "Inoculation with the blood of persons suffering from measles has also in several cases failed to reproduce the disease." On reading this, I thought I had somewhere seen a statement to the contrary: and in Dr. Aitken's work on *Medicine* (vol. i, p. 209) I find: "Scarlatina, measles, and syphilis have now been produced by inoculation from the blood of patients labouring under these diseases." Which statement may be relied on? or where can one find any account of such experiments? I may remark that Dr. Darwin, in his *Zoönoma*, asserts that small-pox cannot be conveyed by inoculation with the blood.

. It may be doubted whether there is any real contradiction between the two statements. Moreover, at p. 306 of vol. i (and ed.), Dr. Aitken says concerning measles: "Some difference of opinion exists as to the possibility of communicating the disease by inoculation." He then goes on to state that, whilst some successful cases of inoculation had been performed by Dr. Home, "many trials of this kind have also failed to produce the disease." See also Copland's *Dictionary of Medicine* and Wood's *Practice of Medicine*. According to the latter writer, varicella is not inoculable by means of the blood; and there is much reason to believe that the same holds good for scarlet fever, although the disease has on several occasions been reproduced by inoculating with the fluid of vesicles which have formed on the skin. But the skin seems to be the special seat of elimination of the poison.

IN our next number will be commenced a series of Clinical Lectures on Surgery, delivered at St. Bartholomew's Hospital by Sir James Paget, F.R.S.

M.D.—It is an error in the *Medical Directory*, pointed out on a former occasion. The person mentioned never was physician to the Coombe Hospital.

G. B. (Chelmsford).—It is an old saying in your part of the world, that "an ague in the spring is physic for a king." Again: "Agues come on horseback, but go away on foot."

FILARIA BRONCHIALIS.

SIR.—I shall be obliged if you will kindly give in the answers of your next number, information on this point: viz., what is known of, or supposed to be, the origin of the filaria bronchialis (human)? what its supposed mode of entry into the bronchial tubes? and the conditions under which it has usually been found?

I am, etc., J. W. P.

. Our correspondent's various questions respecting the genesis of *Filaria bronchialis* cannot, in the present state of the science, be fully answered; but in Dr. Cobbold's work on Entozoa, he will find the general characters of this viviparous nematode given at some length. If J. W. P. have been fortunate enough to detect specimens of this worm in the human subject, a careful examination of the adult entozoon might help to settle certain points raised respecting its identity with *Strongylus longevaginatus*, which is the view taken by Dr. Cobbold and Küchenmeister. It would be more to the point, however, if J. W. P. could collect some of the living embryos, and place them in water, so as to watch any subsequent changes they may be capable of undergoing in this medium. It is probably not necessary that this worm should pass through the body of any intermediary animal-bearer before it gains access to the human host; but it may be essential to its final development that a higher larval stage should be acquired in water or in some other medium of the outer world. If we recollect rightly, Balbiani has recently published some interesting particulars in connection with the development of the strongles having an immediate bearing upon this point.

STOPPING TEETH.

SIR.—The following will be found a very good and inexpensive amalgam. Thoroughly mix together in the palm of the hand some fine silver filings and globules of pure mercury; then add a few silver leaves till the whole forms a shining mass of the consistence of putty. With some of this, the cavity of the tooth (free from all extraneous matter and quite dry) should be at once filled, for it soon becomes extremely hard. The remainder of the mass can at any future time be made ready for use by first applying pressure with a moderately warm iron, and afterwards mixing with, perhaps, a silver leaf or two; however, the best way is to keep it in pieces, each sufficient for a single tooth; gold leaf may be used instead of silver.

I am, etc., W. A. D.

SIR.—In reply to Dr. Evans of Narberth, I beg to inform him that the dentists use the following for stopping decayed teeth. Twelve grains of quicksilver and six grains of silver filings are well mixed in the palm of the hand, by means of the forefinger. The tooth must then be thoroughly dried with cotton wool, and the cavity must be completely filled, by pressure. No food must be taken for two or three hours afterwards. In a short time, the amalgam will be as hard as the tooth itself.

Newcastle, December 25th. I am, etc., J. LIDDELL, M.R.C.S.E.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Lincoln Gazette, Dec. 30th; The Huddersfield Chronicle, Jan. 6th; The Liverpool Weekly Albion, Jan. 6th; The Huddersfield Daily Examiner, Jan. 8th; The Scarborough Express, Jan. 6th; The Eastern Daily Press, Dec. 29th; The Sussex Coast Mercury, Jan. 6th; The Brighton Daily News, Jan. 9th; etc.

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

Dr. Habershon, London; Dr. Clifford Allbutt, Leeds; Dr. Murchison, London; Dr. Falconer, Bath; Mr. W. W. Stabb, Torquay; Dr. Purvis, Greenwich; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Mr. Novelli, London; Dr. Wadham, London; Dr. W. B. Hay, Hull; Mr. W. J. Kite, West Bromwich; Dr. Kemp, Barnstaple; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Mr. Grant, Wolverhampton; Dr. Wolfe, Glasgow; Mr. Dale, Glasgow; Dr. Samelson, Manchester; Dr. S. W. D. Williams, Hayward's Heath; Dr. Thring, Bath; Mr. Balmanno Squire, London; Mr. Maudner, London; Dr. Percy Boulton, London; Mr. C. L. Prince, Uckfield; Dr. George Johnson, London; Dr. Cobbold, London; Mr. Procter, Shifnal; Mr. Warner, London; Mr. Callender, London; Dr. Bäumler, London; Dr. Algave, Paris; Dr. Latham, Cambridge; Mr. W. Silburn, Pocklington; Dr. T. L. Brunton, London; Dr. Clouston, Carlisle; Dr. Maudsley, London; Mr. Samuel Wood, Shrewsbury; Dr. H. Davies, London; The Secretary of the Clinical Society; 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; Dr. Elliott, Hull; The Secretary of the Harveian Society of London; Dr. Stanley Haynes, Salisbury; Dr. A. White, Sevenoaks; Mr. Carr, Newcastle; Dr. James Morris, London; Mr. Challoner, Aldborough; Mr. Popham, London; Mr. Fairlie Clarke, London; Mr. Dyke, Merthyr Tydfil; Mr. H. Arnott, London; Mr. S. M. Bradley, Manchester; Mr. J. R. Perkins, Hendon; Dr. Morehead, London; Mr. Ceely, Aylesbury; Mr. James Adams, London; Dr. Tilt, London; Mr. H. P. Leech, Woolpit; Mr. I. N. Jakins, London; Mr. H. R. Ruckley, Ipswich; Dr. Corfield, London; Dr. W. H. Stone, London; Dr. Braxton Hicks, London; Dr. G. W. Balfour, Edinburgh; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. A. Rickards, Armley; Dr. Henry, Pomeroy; The Secretary of the Pathological Society; Dr. Shettle, Reading; Mr. Sprague, Paynton; Mr. R. Pennington, Bolton; Dr. B. W. Foster, Birmingham; Mr. S. B. Farr, Andover; Dr. Trollope, St. Leonard's-on-Sea; Dr. Dalton, Bourne-mouth. Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. Dale, Scarborough; Mr. Glog, Bristol; Mr. Date, Crewkerne; Sir James Paget, London; Dr. Soulby, Hull; G. E. N.; Dr. Shapter, Exeter; Dr. A. Robertson, Glasgow; The Misses Robinson; Dr. C. F. Moore, Dublin; etc.