

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

VIENNA.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Professors and Students.—*The Humoral Pathology.—Lostorfer's Investigations on Syphilitic Blood.*

THAT truth is stranger than fiction, is indeed an axiom which present events are apparently not calling in question, but are indeed supporting, even in the last quarters from which such confirmation may be expected to spring. It is said that the scholars of an ancient master beat him to death in their indignation at his severity; and recently the students of Vienna petitioned the Minister of Education to remove a professor, and appoint another with less rigid ideas on the importance of a knowledge of botany to men whose after-life would be spent in the observation of the natural history of disease. Whether this was some subtle satire on modern German therapeutics by that professor of botany, or whether the students' estimate of the relative importance of botany in the medical curriculum was a more correct one than his, it is certain that a compromise was effected; the professor still keeps his chair, and students have still to show some knowledge of botany previously to the possession of the degree of M.D. But recently this assertion of the claims of students to have their opinions consulted by the professors may fairly be said to have culminated in Hungary. From the *Hun* and *Pesti Naplo* and *Földvársai Lapok* of last week, it appears that no less a man than Lenhossek, Professor of Anatomy at Pesth, had recently what he evidently regarded as a narrow escape for his life. This professor is not without fame without the limits of the Austrian empire; but he and his Magyar students are not on the best of terms. They assert that this professor only acquires an acquaintance with the Hungarian language by forgetting an equal quantity of German, so that he is now neither exactly Magyar nor Teuton in his speech. This is a slightly singular theory, but it throws some light on the cause of the quarrel. The professor had made rather a practice of uttering what his class chose to consider rude and ungentelemanly remarks; and recently this led his students to make such a demonstration of their anger as made the professor resort to an undignified retreat through a window, preferring this way of reaching the public street to facing any longer his infuriated class, who were preparing to inflict personal chastisement on their teacher. Whether this conduct on the part of his class was exactly consistent with the theory of the unusual terms on which alone he was permitted to acquire their language or not, may be questioned. It is, however, one event in a new year which is not likely to be inordinately eventless.

In Vienna itself has occurred a discovery which is, in the present state of public opinion, of unusual importance. The humoral pathology has recently been pronounced as the "the pathology of the nursery, the pathology of the drawing-room, and the pathology of the church," in England. And no later than last week did one of our most prominent British medical journals, in issuing a series of "therapeutic traditions," commence with "elimination," so intimately associated with the theory of blood-poisoning. In fact, we might have all along, since medicine took a defined position, have been hunting a rat with all the barn-doors open; the essence of the hunt, of course, being the fact that either the doors must be open or opened by our remedy. Indeed, humoral pathology has been cast to earth, and, Antæus-like, has arisen with fresh vigour. A month or six weeks ago, a rumour of a very indefinite character has been circulating, that a gentleman working with Professor Stricker had discovered certain peculiar appearances in syphilitic blood. But all was indefinite. Then it was said that Professors Hebra and Stricker were greatly interested in the discovery. Moreover, it was asserted that the accomplished observer had been able to identify the blood of one learned professor, however skilfully the slides of different blood were presented to him. This, he alleged, was rendered possible by its being laden with effete material, in consequence of long hours in-doors, and the absence of sufficient exercise. This was extremely startling; and, as repeated tests only corroborated his power, the rumours increased. The new field thus opened has incalculable consequences. Not only, in the first place, are the holders of blood-poisoning most completely vindicated, and the very foundations of their arguments made ocularly demonstrable, but a wide range for speculation by barristers and others in not only cases of murder by the spilling of blood, but even in cases of identification, is opened out.

In the *Wiener Medizin. Wochenschrift* of January 20th is given a short account of the observations. Dr. Lostorfer, the gentleman in question, is a Hungarian, and has not hitherto been much known as other than

a steady worker and a careful observer. For some time past he has been studying the microscopic appearances of blood, especially after it has stood some little time. Every care was taken in these investigations to eliminate all sources of error; all doubts on that head may be laid aside. After a period of time, varying from twenty-four to one hundred and twenty hours, in the blood of persons who are regarded as syphilitic, by our ordinary rules, certain peculiar appearances are manifested. So characteristic, indeed, are they when present, that Dr. Lostorfer could establish a diagnosis in each case. The peculiar appearances consist in the development of numerous little spherical bodies, in themselves lifeless and incapable of movement, of various sizes, some in size and other characteristics not unlike red blood-corpuscles. They are quite unlike any ordinary changes of blood-corpuscles, and, after careful and repeated examination, have been pronounced unique. The investigation has been carried on in the fairest manner and subjected to the strictest tests, as the names of Hebra and Stricker testify. The excitement which this is occasioning in histological circles especially is quite a contrast to the calm, unruffled, deliberate aspect of German scientific work generally. The peculiar bodies have been demonstrated to other persons, and the power to see is not confined to the original observer. The appearances have been described to me by two different gentlemen, both very competent to hold and give an opinion. What forms these bodies assume on their first becoming visible, will no doubt require much investigation; but the maximum size yet observed is that of an ordinary red blood-corpuscle. The importance of this most original discovery we are not yet able even to guess; but the subject is likely to have great and extended attention paid to it. There is already enough to lead us to hesitate about abandoning our theories of the blood being often the vehicle of poisons.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

NORTH WALES BRANCH.

THE intermediate general meeting of this Branch will be held at the Wynnstay Arms Hotel, Wrexham, on Tuesday, February 27th, at One o'clock P.M., under the presidency of J. R. JENKINS, M.D., Ruthin.

Mr. Griffith and Dr. Williams will kindly provide luncheon at 12.30 P.M. at the above Hotel, before business is proceeded with.

The dinner will take place at 4 o'clock at the same Hotel. Tickets, 5s. 6d. each, exclusive of wine.

The annual subscription of One Guinea to the Parent Association, and of Half-a-crown to the Branch, became due on the 1st of January, and members are requested to forward them with as little delay as possible to the Treasurer, Dr. G. Turner Jones, Denbigh.

Gentlemen who have papers or cases to communicate, and who purpose dining, will oblige by sending early notice of the same to the undersigned.

D. KENT JONES, Honorary Secretary.

Beaumaris, January 5th, 1872.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE third ordinary meeting of the session was held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday evening, January 18th; CROSBY LEONARD, Esq., President, in the Chair. There were present forty members and two visitors.

The Case of Mr. Grubb.—A letter from the Local Government Board was read, in reply to the memorial from this Branch requesting the reconsideration of the case of Mr. P. Grubb of Warminster, who had been denied the retiring allowance after many years' service under the Poor-law Board. The letter stated that the granting of a retiring allowance was quite optional with the local Board of Guardians, and therefore the Board above could not interfere.

Mr. HINTON forcibly illustrated the bad effects of this resolution, and urged the members to support the claims of Poor-law medical officers.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were balloted for, and duly elected members of the Branch:—George Thompson, Esq., Bristol; H. W. Saunders, Esq., Bristol; G. M. Stansfeld, Esq., Bristol; Onslow Andrews, M.D., Bristol; G. C. B. Hart, Esq., Clifton; Richard Alford, Esq., Weston-super-Mare; R. Lewis Willcox, Esq., Warminster.

Papers.—The following papers were read.

1. Spontaneous Amputation of the Foot.—Mr. STOCKWELL made some remarks on the case of a man aged 23, who was attacked with typhoid fever. One foot became gangrenous. He recovered from the fever; healthy reparative action set in; the parts separated; and

the wound healed over, leaving a capital stump, exactly similar to that left after Pirogoff's operation.

2. *Hydrate of Chloral in Tetanus.*—Mr. H. C. HOPKINS narrated a case of traumatic tetanus treated with large doses of hydrate of chloral. The patient recovered, and was presented at the meeting. An animated discussion followed, in which the President, Dr. Martyn, Messrs. Grace, Waugh, and others, took part.

3. Mr. PARSONS read a report of three cases of Concealed Præpartum Hæmorrhage. Remarks were made on this case by Messrs. Collins and Mason.

4. Dr. MARTYN read an interesting case of Intestinal Occlusion with fatal result.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 1872.

Surgeon-Major J. A. BOSTOCK, Esq., C.B., Vice-President, in the Chair.

ON THE EXCITABILITY OF DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE TRUNK OF A SPINAL NERVE. BY W. RUTHERFORD, M.D., F.R.S.E.

In this communication, Professor Pflüger's experiments regarding the excitability of different parts of the trunks of the motor fibres of spinal nerves were described. Pflüger found that, in stimulating a nerve with the electric current, the effects were more marked and in proportion to the distance from the muscle at which the stimulus was applied; and he suggested that the nervous force accumulated in proportion to the length of the nerves. This explanation had been termed the "avalanche hypothesis". Dr. Rutherford criticised this hypothesis. He pointed out the faulty character of his experiments, and narrated those performed by himself. The latter showed that Pflüger's explanation of his experiments was untenable; that the avalanche hypothesis regarding the transmission of nerve force had no fact in its support; and that the excitability of both the *afferent* and *efferent* fibres of a spinal nerve was inversely as the distance from the spinal cord. The possible explanations of this singular and novel fact were considered, and the bearing of this discovery upon our ideas regarding the nature of the influence which travels along a nerve was indicated.

Mr. POWER had always felt difficulty in accepting Pflüger's view. He asked if the greater thinness of the envelope of the nerves near the cord, might not account for the difference in excitability.—Dr. RADCLIFFE asked whether the fact that nerves died centripetally in some measure explained the result of the experiments.—Dr. RUTHERFORD said that Mr. Power's question was one well worthy of consideration; if, however, a nerve were divided between the electrodes, the excitability was increased greatly at the site of the division. He did not think that the result was affected by the death of the nerve, considering the rapidity with which the experiments were conducted.

PROPOSED FORMS OF SURGICAL RETURNS AND REPORTS TO BE USED IN WAR.

BY DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL C. A. GORDON M.D., C.B.

[Communicated by BERKELEY HILL, F.R.C.S.]

The object of the proposed forms was to present information regarding wounds received in battle, and operations performed in their treatment, in a manner calculated to facilitate comparison regarding their severity, results, prevalence and fatality of complications usually met with, and also to arrange observations upon subjects of surgical interest in a definite manner. Three forms were exhibited. *Table 1.* In this form wounds were arranged (a) according to their position, (b) according to severity, and (c) the deep parts of importance implicated. The different columns into which the form was divided indicated the circumstances under which wounded had been admitted, the several conditions in which they were discharged, and, in regard to those who died, the causes of death, distinguishing particularly the cases of mortality by hospital diseases and complications. *Table 2.* This form was intended to contain a record of the various operations performed. The operations were arranged according to their kind, as—(a) amputations, (b) excisions, (c) resections, (d) ligatures, (e) trephining, (f) extractions, (g) other operations. The first four classes were severally arranged according to region or part of the body, and in regard to each case the return would show the manner in which it was admitted, period of operation, the circumstances under which the patient was discharged, and in cases of death, the precise cause, as far as practicable, of the fatal termination. *Form 3, or Report.* This presented different headings under which information might be arranged for the purpose of being subsequently

collected and condensed. These headings included the following points—viz. (1) those referring to form 1; (2) those referring to form 2; (3) conditions of individual hospitals; (4) as to certain diseases that may appear among the wounded; (5) as to the important question of hæmorrhages; (6) as to the relative success of primary and secondary operations; (7) as to other surgical points of interest, some of which were enumerated; (8) as to the character of wounds by new projectiles and other arms; and (9) such other general subjects as were not included under any other of the above heads.

Surgeon-Major WYATT thought that the plan described by Dr. Gordon entered into more details than could be attended to in active service, however important they might be for use afterwards. He had drawn up a plan in Paris, which had been extensively used there, especially by Maisonneuve, and had been approved by Chenu.—Dr. MAYO said that it was impossible to secure the accurate filling up of a number of forms.

SCHEMA OF THE CIRCULATION. BY W. RUTHERFORD, M.D., F.R.S.E.

Dr. RUTHERFORD showed and described an apparatus which he had made, for demonstrating the phenomena of the circulation. The vessels were represented by elastic tubes variously arranged; and it was used in demonstrating the phenomena of the pulse, blood-pressure, etc.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, IRELAND.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 1872.

ALFRED HUDSON, M.D., President, in the Chair.

Stethometry.—Dr. HAYDEN exhibited and described a stethometer which he had devised. The instrument is remarkable for its simplicity, and for its adaptation to the purpose for which it is intended. It consists of two box cylinders soldered together, a central ridge of metal uniting them. Each of these cylinders contains a metallic measuring tape. In using this stethometer the centre-piece is placed exactly over the mesial line of the chest, and measurements are made with the tapes on each side in the ordinary way, and at the usual levels.

Small-pox.—Dr. W. M. BURKE read a paper on the present epidemic of small-pox. He contrasted the early adoption of active precautions against the importation of cattle-plague, some years ago, with the extreme apathy displayed on an occasion like the present, when human health and life were largely at stake. He sketched the recent history of the prevalence of small-pox in Ireland, and more particularly in Dublin. So low had the mortality from the disease fallen two years ago, only twenty-six deaths having occurred throughout Ireland in 1869, that the impression gained ground that small-pox had been stamped out of the country. Early in March last, however, a fatal case occurred in Cork Street Fever Hospital, the patient, a girl, having shortly before landed from England. Since the 14th of that month 365 deaths had been ascribed to variola in Dublin and its suburbs. Of these, 249 took place in hospitals, and 116 in the dwellings of patients. On the 4th of the present month (January) no less than fourteen cases terminated fatally. In speaking of hospital accommodation, Dr. Burke referred to the deplorable want of proper means for the conveyance of patients from their homes to the hospitals, though, of late, this evil had been partially remedied. Among the most fertile causes of the spread of the epidemic the "waking of the dead" was particularised. To check this, steps were now being taken by the Roman Catholic clergy. Two questions suggested themselves in the consideration of the period of convalescence from small-pox. First, at what period was the patient safe, as regarded himself and the possibility of his spreading the disease? Secondly, what was to be done with the convalescent? In answer to the last question, he suggested that several small houses should be taken. Dr. Burke, in conclusion, mentioned two objections to the practice of vaccination which had been adduced by its opponents. To the first of these, that vaccination was presumptuous, no answer was required. A more plausible objection was, that other diseases might be introduced into the system by means of vaccination. But, even if this did happen, which was at best a disputed point, it was in very rare instances indeed. On the subject of revaccination, his opinion was that the operation should be performed where there was nothing against it, and where it would inspire the patient with confidence.

Dr. DARBY, of Bray, mentioned an instance where a nursing mother had variola. The infant was at once vaccinated, but an attack of small-pox ran its course *pari passu* with the vaccine vesicle. In his experience of the present epidemic, many cases appeared to have had a spontaneous origin, no history of contagion being obtainable.

Dr. ROBERT MC DONNELL said that a year ago he had, as physician

cases, or 4.4 per cent. In the seventy-four unvaccinated cases, there were six malignant, or 8 per cent.; in the 870 vaccinated, thirty-six malignant, or 4.1 per cent. All the malignant cases, without exception, proved fatal. In fine, the mortality, both in the vaccinated and unvaccinated, has been nearly double what was the average of a series of sixteen years (viz., from 1836 to 1851 inclusive), as may be seen by a comparison of the return of 1871 with the tabulated reports made public by your Resident Surgeon in 1853.

During the year 1871, 965 persons have been vaccinated at the hospital, and 732 charges of vaccine lymph have been supplied to the members of the medical profession at home and abroad, besides several large supplies in tubes for the colonies.

REPORT ON THE WATER-SUPPLY TO THE SOUTH OF LONDON.

IN consequence of the statements, official and otherwise, that the water in the south of London is exceptionally bad just now, we have instituted an inquiry into the present condition of the water supplied to that division of the metropolis. All the samples were taken on the same day, the 7th inst., and the analyses were made by Mr. Wanklyn by the ammonia process.

The following are the results.

SAMPLE, WHERE TAKEN.	PARTS PER MILLION.
Kent Water Company : Public-house, New Cross Road	0.01 ... 0.03
Lambeth Water Company : Cab-rank in Palace Road	0.01 ... 0.14
Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company : Cab-rank in Blackfriars Road	0.01 ... 0.12
Ditto : Cab-rank in St. George's Road, near Elephant and Castle	0.01 ... 0.09
Ditto : Cab-rank in Old Kent Road	0.01 ... 0.12

Good water, such as is generally supplied to large towns in this country, usually contains from 0.06 to 0.08 parts of albuminoid ammonia in one million parts of water. The Kent Company's water is, therefore, of extraordinary purity. The Southwark and Vauxhall Company and the Lambeth Company supply bad water.

We hold that the simple truth is better than a sensational statement, and, whilst maintaining that Government ought to prohibit the supply of such water as these companies are distributing, we consider ourselves bound in fairness to point out that, when our samples of water were taken—namely, on the 7th instant—the water was not in a worse condition than usual; and that it even appears to be better than it was in the years 1867 and 1868. The inhabitants of South London may, at any rate, console themselves with the reflection that their water-supply does not deteriorate.

MEDICAL NEWS.

KING AND QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN IRELAND.—At the January examinations, the following obtained the License to practise Medicine.

Hamilton, Stewart	Murphy, William Reed
McGuire, Edward	Roche, Anthony
Mulvany, Edward	

The Midwifery Diploma was granted to the following.

Marshall, John	Murphy, William Reed
McGuire, Edward	Prendergast, John
Mulvany, Edward	Roche, Anthony

APOTHECARIES' HALL, DUBLIN.—At an examination, the following gentlemen obtained the licence to practise.

Cremen, Patrick J.	Murphy, John
Harvey, Arthur G.	Vickery, George

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, February 1st, 1872.

Breeze, Richard Goodwin, 197, Euston Road	
Mahomed, Frederick Henry Horatio Akbar, Brighton	

The following gentleman also on the same day passed his first professional examination.

Barron, Frederick William, St. Bartholomew's Hospital	
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MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

ANDOVER UNION—Medical Officer for District No. 3: £20 per annum.

ARDNAMURCHAN, Inverness-shire—Parochial Medical Officer: £80 per annum, house, etc.

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

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND EYE HOSPITAL—Surgeon.

BLOOMSBURY DISPENSARY, Great Russell St.—Resident Medical Officer.

CASTLEBAR UNION, co. Mayo—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the North Division No. 2 of the Castlebar Dispensary District: £100 per annum, and fees.

CASTLEDERG UNION, co. Tyrone—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Drumquin Dispensary District: £40 per annum, and fees.

DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON, Soho Square—Dental House-Surgeon: £40 per annum.

DONEGAL UNION—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Pettigo Dispensary District: £50 per annum, and fees.

DUNSHAUGLIN UNION, co. Meath—Medical Officer for the Workhouse: £80 per annum.

ENNISCORTHY DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM, co. Wexford—Visiting and Consulting Physician.

HOLYWELL UNION, Flintshire—Medical Officer for the Whitford No. 1 District: £35 per annum.

INVERKIP, Renfrewshire—Resident Medical Practitioner: £100 first year, and most likely £15 a year as Parochial Medical Officer.

IRVINESTOWN UNION, co. Fermanagh—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Clonelly Dispensary District: £50 per annum, and fees.

KENT AND CANTERBURY HOSPITAL—Assistant House Surgeon and Dispenser: £50 per annum, residence, board, and washing.

MALE LOCK HOSPITAL, Dean Street—Non-resident Dispenser.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL—Physician; Assistant-Physician.

MILE END OLD TOWN—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the North District and the Workhouse and Schools: £200 per annum, and vaccination fees.

NEWARK HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY—Resident Medical Officer and Secretary: £100 per annum, board and lodging.

NEWCASTLE UPON-TYNE HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF CHILDREN—Surgeon.

NORTHERN HOSPITAL, Liverpool—Two Physicians.

NORTH WALES COUNTIES LUNATIC ASYLUM, Denbigh—Assistant Medical Officer: £100 per annum, rooms, board, and washing.

NOTTINGHAM DISPENSARY—Resident Surgeon, and Assistant Resident Surgeon: £140 and £120 per annum, furnished apartments, coal, and gas.

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

PETERBOROUGH UNION—Medical Officer for the Castor District.

QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, Birmingham—Resident Physician and Medical Tutor.

ROWE INFIRMARY, Launceston—Dispenser.

ROYAL SEA-BATHING INFIRMARY, Margate—Resident Surgeon: £100 per annum, board and lodging.

TADCASTER UNION, Yorkshire—Medical Officer for the Tadcaster District: £40 per annum.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD—Waynflete Professor of Chemistry.

WESTMINSTER GENERAL DISPENSARY, Gerard Street—Surgeon; Resident Medical Officer: £100 per annum, furnished apartments and attendance.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE HOSPITAL and DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon: £60 per annum, board, lodging, and washing.

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.

BIRTH.

STEELE.—On February 3rd, at Meridian Place, Clifton, the wife of *Charles Steele, F.R.C.S., of a son.

MARRIAGE.

*PORTER, Wm. Elliott, Esq., Surgeon, of Lindfield, to Julia Martha, only daughter of the late H. W. WILLIAMS, Esq., Solicitor, at Ardingly, Sussex, on Feb. 6th.

DEATHS.

BALDERSON, A. T., Esq., Surgeon (for many years assistant to Sir Astley Cooper), at 37, Woburn Square, aged 67, on February 3rd.—Friends will please accept this intimation.

ST. JOHN, Charles, L.R.C.P., of 2, Cambridge Gardens, Kilburn, aged 33, on February 1st.

BEQUESTS, DONATIONS, ETC.—The Rev. Thomas Fownes Luttrell has bequeathed £500 to the Taunton Hospital; £300 to the Bath General Hospital; £200 to the Eye Infirmary, Taunton; and £200 to the Village Hospital, Dunster.—Lord Berners has bequeathed £1000 to the Leicestershire and Rutlandshire Lunatic Asylum.—Mrs. Milne, of Kinloch, has given £100 to the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen.—The representative of the late Mr. Sydney Jessop has paid £500 to the General Infirmary, £250 to the Hospital for Women, and £250 to the Public Hospital and Dispensary, all at Sheffield.—Mr. H. W. Schneider has given £100 to the Ulverston Cottage Hospital.—Sir Edward Sherlock Gooch, Bart., has given £100 to the East Suffolk Hospital, Ipswich, as a thank-offering for the recovery of the Prince of Wales.—“A Lady” has given £100 to the Birmingham General Dispensary.

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.—Loche (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. Silver (communicated by the President), "On Mitral Stenosis"; Mr. Walter Coulson, "On Lithotomy after Lithotomy."

TUESDAY.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. 8 P.M.: Ballot. 8.30 P.M.: Dr. Broadbent, "On the Cerebral Mechanism of Thought and Speech."

WEDNESDAY.—Epidemiological Society, 8 P.M. Mr. J. N. Radcliffe, "On the Recent Diffusion of Cholera in Europe."

THURSDAY.—Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. Clinical Meeting. Dr. Wynn Williams, "Case of Artificial Anus consequent upon Umbilical Hernia."

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.

A LITTLE ONE (Liverpool) accepts the phrase in Sir W. Gull's address, at which he takes offence, in a literal sense, which obviously it was not meant to bear.

DR. HARRIS (Camborne).—With pleasure, as a suitably condensed hospital report.

ERRATUM.—In Mr. J. N. Stevens's note on the Disinfectant Treatment of Small-pox (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, February 3rd, p. 127, col. 1, line 4 from bottom), for "bisulphate of soda", read "bisulphite of soda".

DR. LEITCH.—The gentlemen named belong to professions well able, we fancy, to take care of themselves.

DR. LARMUTH (Sale).—The report in question was forwarded to us by the Secretary of State for India. We fear that it is not procurable in England; but inquiry may be made at the India Office.

DR. EADY.—Bacon observed that "Witches and impostors have always held a competition with physicians."

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

SIR.—Will you kindly allow me space to lay before the members of the British Medical Association the following proposal, which has been made to me by the agent of a well-to-do Insurance Company? I was asked to accept the office of medical referee upon the following terms.

Industrial Branch.—On all policies not amounting to £100, two shillings and sixpence per case. On policies of £100 and upwards, five shillings per cent. on the sum assured.

General Department.—On policies of £75 and upwards to £250, a fee of 10s. 6d. On policies of £250 and upwards, a fee of £1:1. To earn the munificent fee of 2s. 6d., the referee has to visit the case (in many instances), and to answer nineteen of the most practical questions imaginable.

Suffice it to say, that I have declined with thanks the honour; and I hope there is sufficient of the *esprit de corps* amongst the members of the British Medical Association to induce them to follow my example, as it is only by unity in such matters that we can ever hope to compel Insurance Companies to properly appreciate and remunerate our services.

Bushey, January 1872.

M. DRURY LAVIN.

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

MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM.

SIR,—I have to thank your correspondents Dr. Dyce Duckworth and "P. S." for correcting two rather important errors in my communication to you of January 13th. Dr. Duckworth has courteously and correctly assumed that it was by a slip of the pen that I associated the microsporion *Audouini* with favus. Indeed, I was rather astonished to find that I had done so. He will find that in the letter-press to my *Coloured Photographs of Diseases of the Skin* (1864), and in my *Manual of Diseases of the Skin* (1868), I have correctly associated favus with the achorion Schönleinii. I find that both Dr. Duckworth and "P. S." are quite right in stating that M. Hardy was before me in attributing a parasitic nature to molluscum contagiosum. My recollection of my investigation (which was made, I think, in 1864) is, that it was simply the contagiousness of the disease that suggested to me the possibility of its parasitic nature; but it is more than likely that M. Hardy's work, which I repeatedly perused shortly after its publication, might have been my prompter. In any case, I am glad to admit that I was in error. If, however, my communication was written hastily, the investigation to which it refers was undertaken carefully; and I have only to repeat, that the results were as I have described them.

I admit that the balance of evidence is against me, since Professor Virchow, Dr. Duckworth, and Dr. Fagge, did not meet with the same phenomena that I did; neither, indeed, did M. Hardy; for I failed altogether to meet with anything like sporophorous tubules, which are, indeed, a very different kind of object to free spores. What I found was free spores; and I found them, knowing perfectly well what spores are like, since I had previously made myself thoroughly familiar with the appearances under the microscope of every known fungus that infests the human skin. I do not, of course, profess to be an authority on the subject of cryptogamic botany; but I think it will require a good deal of negative evidence to outweigh the assertion of so careful and so skilful an observer as M. Hardy, when he states that he has seen sporophorous tubules; and since sporophorous tubules and free spores are both of them abundantly present in the achorion Schönleinii, they may also coexist in the parasite of molluscum contagiosum. I am therefore disposed from what I have seen, although it has not been identical with the structures noted by M. Hardy, to think that he may be right. I am, etc., BALMANNO SQUIRE.

Weymouth Street, January 31st, 1872.

VACCINATION.

SIR,—Will you be so good as to give me chapter and section of any Act of Parliament authorising any set of men, whether H.M. Privy Council, the old Poor-law Board, or the new Local Government Board, to limit vaccination to two months in the year. The Act cited as "the Principal Act," of 1867, orders, at section xvi., that a parent of a child shall cause it to be vaccinated within three months, and neither this Act, nor its amending Act of August, 1871, gives any slight sanction to an extension of the period during which an infant is allowed to remain unprotected except at the discretion of the medical attendant or public vaccinator. An effort is being made to limit vaccination to the months of April and October, for no other purpose than to secure arm to arm vaccination; an object certainly desirable of attainment, but not of such importance to our convenience as to allow us to forget the increased hazard to the child, and suspend all vaccination except in the months mentioned.

I am, etc., W. H. CECIL TESSIER.

Biddenden, Kent, February 5, 1872.

HYPODERMIC INJECTIONS.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged for information on the following points:—

1. What is the strength and dose of morphia as used for hypodermic injections?
2. What is the strength, and how is iron used, as an injection into the uterus in cases of *post partum* haemorrhage?

I conceive that it would be rather difficult to inject the uterus with an ordinary glass syringe. I have looked up several authors who have recommended the use of these remedies, but they do not state the quantities. I am, etc., C. D.

* * * 1. A solution of acetate of morphia for injection under the skin can be well made by mixing ten grains of this salt with one fluid drachm of distilled water. Each six minims of a solution thus made will contain one grain of acetate of morphia. For first injection, not more than one minim and a half should be used (the fluid being further diluted to facilitate the injection).

2. Dr. R. Barnes, in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for May 29th, 1869, gave the following rules for the use of the perichloride of iron in *post partum* haemorrhage:—"1. Take four ounces of the strong solution of the British Pharmacopœia, add eight or twelve ounces of water; put this in a deep basin; pump some of this fluid two or three times through a Higginson's syringe back into the basin, so as to ensure the exclusion of air from the syringe. 2. Pass the hand into the cavity of the uterus, if necessary, to clear away placenta or clots. 3. Slip up, guided by the palm of the hand that is in the uterus, the uterine tube attached to the syringe, until the point touches the fundus of the uterus: then inject, slowly and gradually, letting the fluid trickle down over the inner surface of the uterus. Inject about three-quarters of the fluid in the basin, avoiding the last quarter, lest air be sucked up into the syringe."

MR. H. (Plymouth).—The examination for the License in Midwifery is usually held at the Royal College of Surgeons some time in the present month. Write to the Secretary.

TRANSMISSION OF INDUCED CHANGES.

RUSTICUS writes to us:—"In the current number of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, I observed a paragraph headed "Artificial Heredity," in which it is remarked that, "as M. Bert pointed out, it is possible that guinea-pigs are unique in this hereditary transmission of artificial varieties of form and morbid state."

Happening to take up Stonehenge's work on the *Dogs of the British Isles*, under the article on the "Sheep-dog", I came upon the following passage:—"As the shepherd's dog under the old excise laws was only exempt from tax when the tail was cut off, it was formerly always removed; and, in process of time, many mothers produced litters—or parts of a litter—wholly without tails; and an instance of this has occurred in our own experience."

This seems to me to be interesting as a physiological fact; and, if reliable, not only confirms the investigations of Dr. Brown-Séquard on the subject, but is an answer to the objection raised by M. Bert.

CAVE CANEM.—It appears that a peculiar predisposition renders some individuals more subject to the accidents that follow the bite of rabid animals than others. John Hunter gives an instance in which, out of twenty persons who were bitten by the same dog, only one received the disease.

SHOULD HOSPITALS TAKE PAYMENT?
SIR.—I enclose you a newspaper report of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary for 1871, in the hope that it may aid in answering your editorial of December 30th, "Should Hospitals take payment?" That depends, I think, upon the mode of payment. The number under treatment in the infirmary during the year was 6540. The ordinary income was made up as follows:—General public, £7076; public works, £6691; church collections, £1136; other sources making the total £18,949. The ordinary expenditure was £18,802. The extraordinary income consisted of legacies and donations above £50 amounting to £916; the extraordinary expenditure was £5793. The dispensary cases were 13,630; but it is to be noted that advice only is given, the applicant getting the medicines ordered made up by a chemist at his own expense.

It is, however, in regard to the mode of admission that I desire more particularly to draw your attention. The second regulation is—"All contributors of £10 or more, and all annual subscribers of one guinea or more, shall be entitled to recommend one patient annually for every £10 of contribution, and for every guinea of annual subscription." The eighth regulation is—"Persons meeting with an accident shall be admitted without any subscriber's recommendation." The directors have no privilege of recommendation except as contributors; the manager or cashier of a public work granting recommendations in proportion to the amount of subscriptions from the work.

I hope the report will be of use as an aid to the solution of a very important question for the public and the profession. I am, etc., H. R. HOWATT, M.D.
15, Cumberland Street, Glasgow, January 11, 1872.

A COUNTRY ASSOCIATE.—No Hunterian Oration will be delivered this year at the College of Surgeons. Professor Wilson, F.R.S., will deliver the last lecture of his course on Dermatology on the 14th instant, the anniversary of the birth of John Hunter.

UNQUALIFIED PRACTITIONERS.

SIR.—I am glad to find that the last few weeks have shown a more decided opinion on the part of the press with regard to the pretended degrees of Philadelphia. I am only surprised that the medical journals have not more strongly protested against the great wrong done, both to our profession and society at large, by the numerous unqualified practitioners who are now deluding the public by the assumption of titles to which they have no claim. I have before addressed you on this subject; and I would not again intrude on your space did I not feel the important influence that the legal settlement of this question must necessarily have on the status and welfare of medical men. Ignorance, quackery, and empiricism are but too common amongst us; but the great fact still holds good, that the trained and educated physician or surgeon must be better prepared for his duties than the person who has had no preliminary curriculum to undergo; and we who have, at considerable expense, spent years of labour in fitting ourselves for our arduous and responsible office have a right to ask from our legislators some more efficient protection than at present exists. It is encouraging to be able to state that in answer to my proposition that a society should be formed for the purpose of prosecuting unqualified practitioners, I have received many gratifying offers of support. I feel, however, that the task should devolve on some one of higher standing and more influence than myself; and I would, therefore, only suggest that, without relaxing in our efforts for a more stringent Medical Act, some of our London societies should follow the example of the Shropshire Ethical Branch of the Medical Association. I am sure that the needful funds would not be wanting. The Registrar of the Medical Council informs me that Mr. Knox has recently convicted in similar cases; and that the Council would remit a portion or whole of any fine inflicted towards the expenses incurred. It is useless to cavil at the fluctuating stringency of examinations, to propose the amalgamation of licensing bodies or to attempt any other medical reform, whilst there is such a growing evil flourishing amongst us. It is a daily increasing scandal in connexion with the practice of physic that any persons should be able to purchase without examination the so-called degrees of the "Eclectic University of Philadelphia"; for, with the prefix of Dr. or the addition of M.D., how are the public, especially the poorer class, to distinguish between the true and false? It is out of the question that everyone requiring medical aid should be always in a position to consult a register or directory to ascertain whether so-and-so is legally qualified, and, therefore, they can only judge by the title assumed. Thus the educated physician or surgeon is placed on a level, as regards externals, with any ignorant pretender who has sufficient assurance to attempt unprepared a task which taxes to the utmost the energies of those who devote to its duties a life of earnest and constant labour.

May I add the trite aphorism that union is strength; and I would urge on the medical men the necessity of putting aside intestine differences and using all their influence, whether private, social, or political, against everything that may tend to lower the character or position of a profession that ought to be *sans peur et sans reproche*.

I am, etc.,

WM. AKERMAN.

M.B., M.A. (Plymouth).—Your son, having passed the Preliminary Examination for the Membership, can commence his hospital studies at once. For the Fellowship, he will only have to take the additional subjects mentioned in the regulations.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE following were the questions on Surgical Anatomy and Surgery, and on Medicine, submitted to the candidates for the diploma of membership, at the examinations concluded on January 26th. *Surgical Anatomy and Surgery.*—1. What are the causes of acute Synovitis? Mention the symptoms, pointing out those which are diagnostic of each variety; and describe the pathological changes and treatment. 2. Supposing a man to be stabbed in the median line of the abdomen midway between the ensiform cartilage and the umbilicus, and the instrument to pass straight to the spine, mention in order the parts likely to be pierced. 3. Diphtheria: its nature, symptoms, complications, and treatment. 4. Describe the different methods and means that have been recommended in the treatment of cases of Apnoea from Drowning. 5. What are the symptoms, course, results, and treatment, of Gonorrhœal Ophthalmia? 6. Describe the course and relations of the Internal Jugular Vein on both sides of the neck. What veins open into it? *Medicine.*—1. A young woman is seized with pain in the abdomen which you diagnose to be due to Peritonitis. Why do you come to this conclusion? State under what circumstances the attack might occur, and what would be your treatment? 2. A patient has Dropsy, which you believe to be due to mitral regurgitation. What are the signs and symptoms which lead you to this opinion? How do you treat the case? If the patient should die, state briefly the *post mortem* appearances of the principal organs. 3. Write prescriptions in full for the following complaints:—Bronchitis, Diarrhoea, Chlorosis, Gastrodynia, Chorea, and Eczema.

KOUMISS.

SIR.—It would much add to the utility of Dr. Jagielski's interesting article in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of February 3rd, if he would kindly give an account of how koumiss is to be made, or where obtained. Beyond leaving an idea that it has something to do with milk in a state of fermentation, I am ignorant what koumiss is, and I know several who share my ignorance. If, therefore, Dr. Jagielski will describe it, he will, I am sure, oblige others, as well as,

Yours, etc., S. W. D. W.

** Koumiss is sold in a manufactured state by Chapman, 10, Duke Street, London, W.C.

DR. ARTHUR LEARED writes to us on this subject as follows. Dr. Jagielski, in his paper on Koumiss in the Treatment of Phthisis, on the authority of Dr. Charlton and others, attributes the undoubted exemption of the Icelanders from phthisis to the use of fermented milk. This cannot be the real cause of the exemption, since the use of *Scyr* is neither extensive nor universal among them.

GIANTS.—Mr. Coles (Woodside, Aberdeen) asks for information of any works treating of giants, or the names and dates of periodicals containing articles on that subject; or accounts of the giant and giantess (Captain and Mrs. Bates) who are exhibiting themselves in this country.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Liverpool Albion, Feb. 3rd; The Daily Review, Jan. 27th; The Edinburgh Courant, Jan. 27th; The East London Observer and Tower Hamlets Chronicle, Feb. 3rd; etc.

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

Dr. Habershon, London; Dr. Murchison, London; Dr. Douglas Powell, London; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. Marshall, Greenock; Dr. Gee, London; Dr. George Johnson, London; Dr. J. G. Swayne, Clifton, Bristol; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. W. S. Playfair, London; S. W. D. W.; An Union Surgeon; Mr. Alfred Haviland, London; Dr. Barclay, London; Dr. Braxton Hicks, London; Dr. Horace Dobell, London; Dr. Marcell, Nice; Mr. Harry Leach, Greenwich; Dr. Thorogood, London; Mr. H. R. Bell, London; Our Vienna Correspondent; Mr. Fairlie Clarke, London; Dr. Leared, London; The Secretary of the Harveian Society; M.D.; Mr. Saunders, Tir Phil, Rhymney; 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. Ransome, Manchester; Dr. Hollis, London; Mr. A. Bossey, London; Mr. W. Millar, Newport; Mr. B. Anningson, Cambridge; Mr. Spencer, Clifton; Mr. Deacon, Ottery St. Mary; Mr. Duncan, Logie; Mr. D. K. Jones, Beaumaris; Mr. Flower, Warminster; Messrs. Harvey and Reynolds, Leeds; Mr. A. Roberts, Keighley; Mr. Hill, Crickhowell; Mr. J. S. Gamgee, Birmingham; Dr. J. Rose, Chesterfield; Dr. McFadyen, Alva; Mr. E. T. Atkinson, Richmond; Mr. M. Nimmo, Dundee; Mr. W. M. Phelps, Welwyn; Mr. G. T. Jones, Denbigh; Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son, London; Mr. Wade, Hounslow; Mr. Harrison, Aldershot; Dr. A. Davies, Swansea; Dr. G. Gregory, Brackley Park; Mr. Berkeley Hill, London; Dr. Marr, Keyham; Mr. C. Vasey, London; Dr. W. Fox, London; Mr. G. F. Hodgson, Brighton; Dr. E. P. Philpots, Poole; Dr. Crespi, Birmingham; Mr. Denny, Monkstown; Dr. R. Jennings, Stratford-on-Avon; Dr. Bodington, Sutton Coldfield; Mr. A. Wood, Kirby Moorside; Dr. R. W. Egan, Dublin; Dr. Munk, London; Mr. Rigden, London; Mr. Jones, Leeds; Dr. Chadwick, Leeds; Dr. Wade, Birmingham; Dr. Macnamara, Dublin; Dr. H. Snow, Worcester; Mr. Dempsey, London; Dr. Bäumler, London; Dr. Bree, Colchester; Dr. Markheim, Paris; Dr. Fayer, Calcutta; Mr. Cooke, London; Mr. J. H. Hill, London; Dr. Fifield, Boston; Mr. R. Lumb, Whitehaven; Mr. Maunsell, Blackburn; Dr. Larmuth, Sale; Mr. Steele, Bristol; Mr. Newham, Wolverhampton; Mr. W. H. Axford, Southsea; Mr. Symmons, Ledbury; Dr. R. H. Taylor, Liverpool; Mr. Stamford, Tunbridge; Dr. Lietch, Derwent Bank; Dr. T. L. Brunton, London; Dr. Tessier, Bidenden; Mr. H. E. Calthorpe, Mirfield; Dr. Stephens, Bristol; Dr. H. Frazer, Armagh; Mr. E. W. Smith, Paddockhurst; Mr. P. H. Holland, London; Dr. Ker, Dunstable; Dr. Howatt, Glasgow; Dr. Harris, Camborne; Mr. H. Cawley, Hedon; Mr. Warner, London; Mr. T. Cuddeford, Plymouth; Dr. Greenhill, Hastings; Mr. Dale, Scarborough; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Feigned Diseases: their Detection and Management. By George Wilson, M.A., M.B., C.M. Edinburgh: 1871.

Report of the Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade on the State of the Brigade and the Fires in London during the year 1871.

A Treatise on Human Physiology: designed for the use of Students and Practitioners of Medicine. By John C. Dalton, M.D. Fifth Edition, revised and enlarged. Philadelphia and London: 1871.

The Contagious Diseases' Acts. By C. W. Shirley Deakin. London: 1872.

On the Relative Efficacy of Tincture of Hyoscyamus, Bromide of Potassium, and Chloral, in Single Doses, on Maniacal Excitement. By John A. Campbell, M.D. Lewes: 1872.

The Science and Practice of Medicine. By W. Aitkin, M.D. Sixth Edition. In Two Volumes. London: C. Griffin and Co. 1872.

The Household Cookery Book: Practical and Elementary Methods. By Urbain Dubois. London: Longmans. 1871.

Report of the Committee on the Treatment and Utilisation of Sewage, reappointed at Liverpool, 1870. London: 1872.

Clinical Lectures on the Diseases of Women. By Sir J. Y. Simpson, Bart, M.D. Edited by A. R. Simpson, M.D. Edinburgh: A. and C. Black. 1872.

Suggestion from a Ready Method of Recording Surgical Cases in Hospital Practice. By Edward Lund, F.R.C.S. Manchester: 1872.