

REPORTS ON THE PURIFICATION OF DRINKING WATER.

WE have already reported that porous filters (and especially the silicated carbon-filters) have extraordinary power in decomposing the organic matter in water. We have also observed that constant employment, day and night for a considerable period, deprives the filter of much of its power. We have now to report that free exposure to the air and washing with a little hot water restores much of the power of the filter. We are instituting a set of experiments on the action of filters on definite solutions of known organic substances. These experiments will of necessity occupy a considerable time. We hope, however, at no very distant date, to report the results.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

RESOLUTION OF POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

SIR,—I beg to forward a letter from Mr. Bridger, enclosing a copy of a resolution adopted at a conjoint meeting of members of the Poor-law Medical Officers' Association and of the British Medical Association, held at Cambridge last March, and trust you will be so good as to publish the same in your this week's issue. I make this request, as I am given to understand the impression exists that the Poor-law Medical Officers' Association will, of necessity, reverse the policy it has heretofore followed as regards Mr. Stansfeld's Public Health Bill, in virtue of the resolution adopted by a majority of one at the meeting of the Associations at the Medical Club, on the 28th ult.; the attendance on that occasion being the smallest ever recorded, nine gentlemen only having been present.

I shall further be obliged if you will permit me to state that the action that has been taken (so far at least as I am concerned) has been mainly determined by the nature of the communications which have been sent me by a very large number of provincial members, the character of which the Cambridge resolution gives a very fair idea of. Surely the views of these gentlemen are entitled to the largest consideration, seeing that the bill, as drawn, affects the interests of medical officers of the provincial service exclusively.—I am, etc.

JOSEPH ROGERS,

Dean Street, June 11, 1872.

President of the Association.

High Street, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, June 9, 1872.

My dear Sir,—I have this morning received the enclosed petition, signed by thirty-nine Poor-law Medical Officers, which I forward for you to get presented when the Public Health Bill goes into committee.—I am, etc.,

JOHN BRIDGER.

To Dr. J. Rogers.

Resolution.—Put and adopted by the Medical Officers present in Cambridge, at a conjoint meeting of the British Medical Association and Poor-law Medical Officers' Association of the counties of Cambridge and Huntingdon, March 26, 1872. "We, the undersigned members of the Poor-law Medical Officers' Association, fully concur in the resolutions adopted by the joint committee on state medicine of the British Medical and Social Science Associations. We also beg to call attention to resolution No. 6, as we consider it would be an extreme hardship to impose further duties, without extra pay, on the already overworked and underpaid medical officers". John Bridger, Cottenham, honorary secretary Poor-law Medical Officers' Association for the county of Cambridge, and medical officer of the District Chesterton Union; Robert Muriel, president elect of the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Branch of the British Medical Association; Thomas Prince, medical officer of Balsham District Union Workhouse; William R. Groves, medical officer of St. Ives Union Workhouse; D. M. Balding, medical officer of the Royston Union Workhouse; Thomas Green, Cambridge Union; Henry Stear, Saffron Walden Union; Robert S. Ellis, medical officer 1st District Chesterton Union; John Buckenham, medical officer 2nd District Workhouse, Chesterton Union; James Beck, medical officer 6th District and Workhouse, Chesterton Union; Edward Knowles, medical officer 5th District Chesterton Union; John Allan Ramsey, medical officer 2nd District Chesterton Union; Henry Ryley, medical officer 3rd District Chesterton Union; Thomas Lucas, medical officer 5th District Newmarket Union; Robert Lucas, medical officer 6th District Newmarket Union; George Willis, medical officer 7th District Newmarket Union; E. J. Carver, medical officer Melbourn District Royston Union; James Newham, medical officer 1st District N. Witchford Union; Wm. Stranger, medical officer and March District N. Witchford Union; J. O'Connor, medical officer 3rd March District N. Witchford Union; M. O'Connor, medical officer, 5th District N. Witchford Union; Mitchell Wilson, M.B., medical officer 4th District N. Witchford Union; Charles F. Harding, M.D., medical officer W. District Whittlesea Union; J. Clarkson Maynard, medical officer Wisbeach Union; John C. Bury, medical officer Wisbeach Workhouse; Walter Berry, medical officer 12th Wisbeach Union; John Hernie, medical officer Wisbeach Union; Michael James Egan, medical officer 6th District Wisbeach Union; H. G. Sturkey, M.D., medical officer Wisbeach Union; Henry Nicholl, medical officer Haddenham District Ely Union; Richard Faircloth, medical officer 2nd District Newmarket Union; W. J. Merlin, medical officer Ely Union; J. Muriel, F.R.C.S., medical officer 2nd District Newmarket Union; C. J. Ennals, medical officer Littleport District Ely Union; George B. Mead, medical officer 2nd District Newmarket Union; Robert Tyson, medical officer 1st District Newmarket Union; Thomas Kerry, medical officer 4th District Newmarket Union; W. C. Maloney, M.B., medical officer Chesterton Union.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 1872.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Annual Meeting for 1872 will be held at Birmingham, on the 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th days of August next.

May 23rd, 1872.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

Annual Meeting, August 1872.

Notice of Motion by Dr. A. B. STEELE.

That the Treasurer be authorised to pay the travelling expenses of members attending the meetings of Committee of Council, and of its Subcommittees in all cases in which provision for such payment does not already exist.

Notice of Motion by Dr. A. B. STEELE.

That Laws 15 and 16 be so altered as to read as follows.

Law 15.

1. The subscription to the Association shall be one guinea *per annum*, which shall entitle each member to receive the publications of the Association for the current year. The subscription shall date and be considered due in advance on the 1st of January in each year, except in the case of a member admitted on or after the 1st July, when the subscription for such part of a year shall be half a guinea in advance.

2. Any member whose subscription shall not have been paid on or before the 31st December of the current year shall be suspended from all privileges of membership; and at the end of the succeeding year, if the arrears be still unpaid, he shall cease to be member, and shall be ineligible for readmission until he shall have paid all arrears due at the period of his suspension.

3. Any member wishing to withdraw from the Association shall give written notice of his intention to the General Secretary on or before the 1st December of the current year; and neither withdrawal, suspension, nor erasure of a member's name from the books of the Association, shall be deemed either in honour or equity to relieve such member from his liabilities to the Association.

THE ANNUAL MUSEUM.

THE Committee invite contributions of the following articles.

1. New or improved Surgical Instruments or Apparatus.
2. New Drugs or Pharmaceutical Preparations.
3. New Articles of Diet for Invalids.
4. New Medical Works.
5. Pathological Specimens, wet or dry; and Casts, Photographs, Drawings, or Diagrams, illustrative of Pathological Conditions.
6. Preparations, etc., illustrative of Diseases of the Organs of Circulation; and Instruments employed in their detection and treatment. It is the intention of the Committee to arrange these in a separate department of the Museum.

Contributors are requested to send a description of the matters which they propose to exhibit to the Honorary Secretaries before July 13th, as it is intended to issue a printed catalogue.

CHARLES J. BRACEY, M.B., Old Square, Birmingham.

ROBERT JOLLY, M.D., Newhall Street, Birmingham.

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE sixteenth annual meeting of the above Branch will take place at the Board Room of Harpur's Charity, Bedford, on Tuesday, June 25th, at 1 P.M.; A. D. MACKAY, M.B., President, in the Chair.

The members and friends will dine together at the Swan Hotel, at 4 P.M. Tickets, exclusive of wine, 5s. 6d. each.

Gentlemen desirous to read papers, or to bring forward cases, are requested to communicate with Dr. Bryan without delay, in order that notice may be given in the forthcoming circular to announce the meeting.

J. M. BRYAN, M.D. } *Honorary Secretaries.*
WM. MOXON. }

Northampton, June 4th, 1872.

NORTHERN BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, Stockton-on-Tees, on Thursday, June 20th, at 1.30 P.M.; CHARLES TROTTER, Esq., F.R.C.S., President, in the Chair.

The dinner will take place at the Black Lion Hotel, at 5 P.M.

G. H. PHILIPSON, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, June 8th, 1872.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE annual meeting will be held at the Great Western Hotel, Birmingham, on Tuesday, June 18th, when T. EBBAGE, Esq., President of the Branch, will give an address.

The annual dinner will be held after the meeting, for the convenience of country members, at 5 P.M. precisely. Dinner tickets, 7s. 6d. each.

BALTHAZAR W. FOSTER, M.D. } *Honorary Secretaries.*
T. H. BARTLEET. }

Birmingham, June 3rd, 1872.

MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held in the Board Room of the General Hospital, Nottingham, on Thursday, June 20th, at 2 P.M.; TINDAL ROBERTSON, M.D., President, in the Chair.

The members and friends will dine together at the George Hotel, at 5 o'clock. Tickets, exclusive of wine, 5s. 6d. each.

JOSEPH WHITE, *Honorary Secretary.*

Nottingham, May 28th, 1872.

SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH.

THE twenty-eighth annual meeting and dinner will take place at the Crystal Palace, on Wednesday, June 26th; Dr. ALFRED CARPENTER, President.

Members and their friends will have an opportunity of inspecting the Croydon Sewage-farm, under the guidance of Dr. A. Carpenter.

G. F. HODGSON, *Honorary Secretary.*

52, Montpellier Road, Brighton, May 1872.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Royal Institution, Manchester, on Wednesday, June 26th, at half-past Twelve o'clock.

Notices of papers or communications should be sent to the Secretary without delay.

The dinner will take place at the Albion Hotel, at 4.30 P.M. Tickets 7s. 6d. each, exclusive of wine.

REGINALD HARRISON, *Honorary Secretary.*

51, Rodney Street, Liverpool, June 4th, 1872.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE AND EAST ANGLIAN BRANCHES.

THE annual meeting of the above Branches will be held at the Dispensary, Ely, on Friday, June 28th, at 2.30 P.M.; ROBERT MURIEL, Esq., President.

Gentlemen wishing to read papers, are requested to send the titles to one of the Honorary Secretaries; and those members who purpose being present at the dinner, are requested to communicate their intention as early as possible, so that the necessary arrangements may be made.

Dinner at the Lamb Hotel, at 6.30 P.M. Tickets, 13s. each.

The following gentlemen have already promised to contribute papers or notes of interesting cases:—The President, Dr. Copeman, Dr. Latham, Dr. Bradbury, John T. Muriel, Esq., etc.

J. B. BRADBURY, M.D., Cambridge. } *Honorary Secretaries.*
J. B. PITT, M.D., Norwich. }
B. CHEVALLIER, M.D., Ipswich. }

ABERDEEN, BANFF, AND KINCARDINE BRANCH.

AN annual general meeting of the above Branch will be held in the Imperial Hotel, Aberdeen, on Saturday, July 6th, at 1.30 P.M.

Dinner at 3 o'clock.

An exhibition of rare and curious surgical instruments will be arranged. Further particulars by circular afterwards.

ALEX. OGSTON, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

Aberdeen, June 5th, 1872.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at the County Hotel, Carlisle, on Wednesday, July 10th, 1872. The President, Dr. CLOUSTON, will occupy the Chair, and deliver his Inaugural Address. The annual election of office-bearers of the Branch will also take place.

At the conclusion of the ordinary business, dinner will be provided in the Hotel. Tickets 5s. each, exclusive of wine. Members are entitled to introduce friends.

HENRY BARNES, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

Carlisle, June 12th, 1872.

NORTH WALES BRANCH.

THE twenty-third annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at the County Hall, Bala, on Tuesday, July 2nd, at 11.30 A.M.; R. CHAMBERS ROBERTS, Esq., F.R.C.S., President, in the Chair.

Members having papers to read, or cases to communicate, are requested to furnish the titles without delay to the undersigned, who will thank those who purpose dining to send him early notice. Gentlemen will be allowed to bring friends to the dinner.

The dinner will be provided at the White Lion Royal Hotel, Bala, at 3 P.M. Tickets, 6s. 6d. each, exclusive of wine.

D. KENT JONES, *Honorary Secretary.*

Beaumaris, June 5th, 1872.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Mineral Water Hospital, Bath, on Thursday, July 4th, at 4.20 P.M.: T. G. STOCKWELL, Esq., President-elect.

The members will afterwards dine together at the York House.

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

6, Belmont, Bath, June 1872.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE twentieth annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Crystal Palace, on Friday, July 12th, at 3 P.M. *President for 1871-72—J. RUSSELL REYNOLDS, M.D., F.R.S.; President-elect for 1872-73—Sir WILLIAM FERGUSSON, Bart., F.R.S.*

Dinner at 5.30 P.M.

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

75, Grosvenor Street, W., June 11th, 1872.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

AT a meeting of the Committee of Council, held at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on Wednesday, the 5th day of June—present: W. D. Husband, Esq., F.R.C.S., in the Chair; Mr. Baker, Mr. Bartleet, Dr. Bryan, Dr. Falconer, Dr. Fothergill, Mr. Nicholson, Dr. Philipson, Dr. Steele, Mr. Southam, Dr. Underhill, Dr. A. T. H. Waters, Mr. Wheelhouse, and Dr. Wilkinson—the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

In reference to minute No. 356, appointing Mr. Robert Upton as legal adviser to the Association, a letter was read from that gentlemen accepting the office.

A letter was read from Mrs. Clayton, thanking the Committee of Council for the resolution in recognition of the services of the late Mr. Clayton, and for the expression of sympathy upon the loss which she had sustained.

Read a letter from Dr. Fleming, stating that, in consequence of severe indisposition, he would be unable to deliver the Address in Medicine at the Annual Meeting.

Resolved—That Dr. Fleming's letter be acknowledged, with an expression of deep regret from the Committee of Council.

Resolved—That Dr. Samuel Wilks be requested to deliver the Address in Medicine at the Annual Meeting to be held at Birmingham in August next.

Read letter from Dr. Thudichum, in reference to a review in the JOURNAL of one of his works.

Resolved—That Dr. Thudichum's letter be acknowledged by the Secretary, with instructions to inform Dr. Thudichum that the Editor is alone responsible for any reviews that may appear in the JOURNAL.

Read letter from Dr. Ogston, Local Secretary of the Aberdeen, Banff, and Kincardine Branch, forwarding a new law of that Branch for confirmation, as follows, viz.:

"Persons of scientific attainments and connected with the profession shall, on condition of their subscribing to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, be admitted as associate-members of the Branch, in the same manner as ordinary members, and shall have the same privileges as ordinary members, except that they shall be ineligible for holding office."

Resolved—That the Secretary be instructed to inform Dr. Ogston that, as the proposed associate-members are only honorary members of that Branch and not of the Association, the regulations by which such honorary members are admitted into the Branch do not require the confirmation of the Committee of Council.

Read letter from Dr. Procter, Local Secretary of the Yorkshire Branch, forwarding copy of resolution passed at the Annual Meeting of that Branch, held at Leeds, viz.:

"That the attention of the Committee of Council be directed to the desirability of not opening the pages of the JOURNAL to the discussion of private professional grievances, which may possibly lead to *ex parte* editorial observations."

Whereupon it was resolved—That the Committee of Council, while desirous to avoid any suggestion which might appear to limit the freedom of correspondence in the columns of the JOURNAL, are strongly of opinion that editorial comments upon questions of personal difference between members of the Association should not be published in the JOURNAL.

The minutes of the Arrangement Committee were read and discussed.

The minutes of the JOURNAL Committee were read, and it was resolved that the same be approved and confirmed.

Thirty gentlemen were elected members of the Association.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF DUBLIN.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH, 1872.

JOLIFFE TUFNELL, Esq., President, in the Chair.

Factitious Urticaria.—Dr. A. W. FOOT showed a drawing of the fore arm and hand of a woman, aged 26, presenting a well marked example of the factitious urticaria, described by Sir William Gull in *Guy's Hospital Reports* (3rd ser., vol. v, p. 316). The initial letters of her name, traced with a blunt instrument on the back of the left fore arm, stood out in high relief, as pale stripes margined at their bases by a blush of capillary hyperæmia. She suffered from chronic recurrent nocturnal urticaria. During the day she was not much annoyed by it, but as soon as she took off her clothes at night the itching commenced, and continued incessantly till an early hour in the morning, depriving her of sleep. The marks stood out in full relief in about five minutes after the application of the pressure. Dr. Foot alluded to the occasional connection of some obscure cases of urticaria in females with irritation of the sexual organs, referring to Scanzoni's observations of urticaria occurring suddenly after the application of leeches to the os uteri; and stated that in this case there was no reason to explain the phenomenon by such a consensus. There were no dyspeptic symptoms, nor anything in the quality of the ingesta to explain the occurrence. He considered that the cutaneous nerves were, from some unknown cause, in a state of peculiar irritability; that the elevations were due to serous infiltration which, by compression of the vessels of the papillæ, made their summits pale and anæmic.

Cirrhosis of Lung.—Dr. EAMES showed an example of cirrhosis of the lung. A man, aged 32, a painter, had for fourteen months suffered from cough, accompanied with a whitish, at times yellowish, expectoration. He had never spat blood, but there was considerable emaciation. In February of this year he came into hospital. The left side was notably smaller than the right, the exact measurements being 15 and 17½ inches respectively. Dulness existed everywhere over the left thorax, a sense of resistance being conveyed on percussion; while over the right side puerile respiration was heard. The heart's apex was displaced towards the left axilla. On *post mortem* examination, the right lung appeared large and so much expanded as completely to conceal the left viscus. The latter was much contracted, of a purple and blue tint, and firm consistence, with dilated bronchi and well-marked trabeculæ. The corresponding pleura was greatly thickened. Some crude tubercles were met with at the apex of the contracted lung. The right lung, besides being largely hypertrophied, was emphysematous in places.

Cancerous Tumour pressing on the Inferior Cava.—Dr. JAMES LITTLE detailed the particulars of a case in which diagnosis was attended with much difficulty. A woman, aged 50, about twelve months ago, observed that her right leg was becoming swollen, and shortly afterwards the left; and that the veins were very turgid whenever she remained standing. In September last she first came under observation. There was then considerable oedema of the lower limbs, and fullness of the veins was very marked—those in the right groin standing out like cords. She complained of a feeling of a lump low down in the abdominal cavity, but no tumour could be felt in the situation indicated. Pain of a gripping character now set in, and she shortly felt pain just below the inferior angle of the right scapula. This symptom appeared in the same place on the other side, and was perceived at the tip of the shoulder also. Some swelling of the abdomen, and finally slight fluctuation, followed; the patient became to some extent jaundiced, and rapidly sank. A knob of hard cancer was found in the transverse fissure of the liver. The tumour pressed on the inferior vena cava, and was closely adherent to the under surface of the diaphragm, thus giving rise to the phrenic pain in the shoulder and below the scapulae.

Leucocythæmia.—Dr. HAWTREY BENSON showed the enlarged spleen of a man, aged 42. During life a tumour had extended from an inch and a half below the umbilicus upwards, displacing the diaphragm. There was a general tendency to anasarca; the liver was also enlarged, and the superficial veins were turgid. Dr. Purser found that the red and white corpuscles of the blood were in about equal numbers. Attacks of dyspnoea occurred, and lastly coma resulted in death. The spleen weighed 6 lbs. 10½ ozs., the liver 6 lbs. 14½ ozs. The thymus gland was two inches long by an inch and a half broad, and half an inch thick, and the bronchial and superficial glands had also undergone similar enlargement. On opening the heart, the blood which issued contained white flocculi, strongly resembling pus. These consisted of rouleaux of white blood-corpuscles. The changes met with in the brain corroborated the views of MM. Ollivier and Ranvier, published some years ago in the *Archives de Physiologie*. Thus numerous capillary hæmorrhages had taken place. About fifty distinct extravasations of blood existed, of which eight or ten were as large as walnuts.

Cancer of Thorax.—Dr. HAYDEN presented a specimen of carcinomatous tumour in the thorax of a man, aged 29. The patient had been intemperate in early life. In May, 1871, he complained of being out of health, and of a swelling at the root of the neck. There were intermittent aphonia, and some hæmoptysis. The facial and cervical veins were distended, the face was livid, but there was no dysphagia. The pulse was 120, rather weaker at the right wrist. Anteriorly, percussion over the chest was clear, but under the right clavicle no respiratory murmur could be detected. A harsh *bruit* accompanied the first sound of the heart. This was audible posteriorly also, and more especially to the right of the middle line. In September following, the symptoms just described had become exaggerated. The oedema had extended to the lower limbs, and to the genitals. No pulsation could be detected in the arteries of the neck, but a faint murmur synchronous with the first cardiac sound was audible in these vessels. The apex-beat of the heart was noticed at the third left intercostal space, and a systolic bellows murmur existed an inch above this at the second left intercostal space. Dulness was remarked on the right side both in front and behind. Paroxysmal dyspnoea at night now became of frequent occurrence, and the decubitus was dextral. The patient died on October 7th. Dr. Hayden considered that the differential diagnosis depended on (1) the localised character of the secondary centre of impulse; (2) the *upward* displacement of the heart; and (3) the almost complete obliteration of impulse in most of the vessels springing from the aorta. After death a carcinomatous tumour was found in the anterior mediastinum. This almost occluded the pulmonary artery and its right branch; the carotid artery was much constricted, and its lining membrane rugose. The arch of the aorta was quite ensheathed in the mass. The heart weighed twelve ounces and was healthy. Both lungs were engorged, the root of the right lung was puckered and contracted. The case was interesting as affording an example of a murmur in the pulmonary artery, systolic in character, and due to the protrusion into the vessel of the scirrhous mass. There was no glandular enlargement.

Laceration of Lung by Fractured Ribs.—Mr. ORMSBY exhibited the spinal column and ribs of a woman who had been murdered some days before. A considerable quantity of blood was extravasated into the left pleural cavity, and on the same side the five lower ribs were all fractured, some of them in several places. The bone had penetrated the pleura and lung. The spinous processes of some of the vertebrae were also fractured. Three rents ran through the tissue of the lung on its posterior aspect. More or less general emphysema was present. The injuries were the result of kicking, and of blows with a three-legged stool.

Fracture at Base of Skull.—Dr. CORLEY reported a case of trephining in compound depressed fracture at the base of the skull. The only effect attributable to the operation was the raising of the rate of the pulse from forty to sixty. The patient, a woman, died in sixteen hours after the elevation of the depressed fragment of bone. A compound depressed fracture was situated a little behind the left lambdoidal suture. A fissure ran from the sella Turcica to the petrous portion of the temporal bone on the left side, bifurcating in its course, and again joining after passing into the foramen lacerum.

SURGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13TH, 1872.

JAMES H. WHARTON, M.B., President, in the Chair.

Cystic Growth engaging Sac of a Femoral Hernia.—Dr. B. F. MC DOWELL exhibited a portion of strangulated intestine in a femoral hernia of eight years' standing. Taxis was successfully practised, though after the reduction of the hernia a tumour, one-third of its size, still remained down. An attack of vomiting occurred, and perforation of the

ine on the vessels of a sheep's pia mater. It is not a subject to which we have directed our attention. But we are able to say that the healthy vessels of a sheep's pia mater, not so acted upon by acetic acid (which reagent is well known to swell out the tunica adventitia), do not present the appearances simulating those described in our paper; and we now repeat, for the information of your readers, that in the investigations we have conducted, neither acetic acid, nor any other reagent which could distort the tissue, was used. We may further add, that both the diseased and healthy specimens were prepared and mounted by exactly the same methods, so as to form ground for strict comparison.

A matter of so great importance as that in question cannot be decided by any *ex parte* evidence one way or the other. It demands, and will, we have no doubt, obtain, a full investigation of competent judges, more unbiassed than we ourselves or Dr. Johnson can be. Why the vessels from certain subjects presented none of the changes described by us, whilst the vessels from others having renal and cardiac disease did present them, though both were prepared in the same way, we must leave Dr. Johnson to explain.—We are, etc.,

WILLIAM W. GULL.
HENRY G. SUTTON.

OBITUARY.

ROBERT WIGHT, M.D., F.R.S., READING.

DR. ROBERT WIGHT, F.R.S., died at Reading on May 26th. Dr. Wight was born at Ormiston, Haddingtonshire, in 1796, and graduated at Edinburgh in 1816. After making one or two voyages as a surgeon to a ship, he went out in 1819 to India (Madras Presidency). He was Assistant-Surgeon and afterwards Surgeon to the 33rd Native Light Infantry. It is, however, as a botanist of untiring energy and extraordinary sagacity and tact that Dr. Wight is best known. His publications are numerous and of great value. They were compiled under circumstances which would have appalled a less energetic man; as it is, they form an enduring memento of his industry. His appreciation of structure and affinities was not less remarkable than his industry. Dr. Wight contributed several papers to various scientific journals on subjects connected with materia medica, and with the cultivation of cotton and other products in India. Dr. Wight became a F.R.S. in 1854 on his final retirement from India.

JOHN H. PATTERSON, M.D., DEP. INSPECTOR-GENERAL R.N.

DR. PATTERSON died at Bournemouth on May 1st. He was appointed Assistant-Surgeon in July 1838, Surgeon in November 1845, Staff-Surgeon in December 1861, and Deputy Inspector-General in October 1868. He served in the Crimea during the whole of the late Russian war, and was Senior Medical Officer in the Sea of Azov for the entire period during which operations were carried on there. After the battle of the Alma, he was employed in superintending the removal of the wounded from the field of battle to the hospital transport, and in the performance of surgical operations previously to their being transferred to the Hospital at Odessa. He afterwards served as Staff-Surgeon at Deptford Dockyard; but was invalided on account of broken health.

MEDICAL NEWS.

THE UNITED HOSPITALS ATHLETIC SPORTS.

A LOVELY day, following a long spell of wretchedly wet weather, did not fail greatly to enhance the attractions of the annual meeting of the United Hospitals Athletic Sports on Thursday afternoon, and tempt out a larger attendance of ladies, members of the various hospital staffs, students, and their friends, than we have on previous occasions seen at the grounds at Lillie Bridge. These sports, which have our sympathy and support, have become year by year more popular and successful, in spite of much adverse weather on the days of meeting; and now they have become a regular institution attached to the system of metropolitan medical schools. This year, for the first time, a new and admirable element of emulation between the hospitals has been introduced, in the shape of a handsome bronze challenge shield, to be held for a year by the hospital which carries off the largest number of events at the annual meeting. This year Guy's Hospital has to thank the well-earned successes of its men in carrying to the Borough the medical athletic championship of London. In consequence of the unavoidable absence of Sir James Paget (the President)

and Lady Paget, the prizes were given away by Mrs. Hilton Fagge at the conclusion of the meeting; and a few remarks were afterwards made by Dr. Fagge, congratulating the interhospital men on the great success of the meeting. The band of the Scots Fusilier Guards played a selection of music during the sports.

THE ADDRESS IN MEDICINE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN BIRMINGHAM.

WE have to announce, with very great regret, that the present state of health of Dr. Fleming of Birmingham has induced him to request the Committee of Council to relieve him from the important function which he had accepted at the annual meeting at Birmingham, of delivering the Address in Medicine. Under these regrettable circumstances, the Council have asked Dr. Wilks of Guy's Hospital to accept the post of Orator in Medicine. This he has kindly done at short notice; and we feel sure that the oration of this distinguished and thoughtful physician will be looked for with great interest.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, June 6th, 1872.

Anderson, William Henry, Theddlethorpe
Dixon, Thomas James, South Africa
Dobson, Joseph, Leeds
Edwards, Alfred, Scilly Isles
Gerrard, William Arthur, Ticknall, Derby
Greaves, Frank, Bishop's Waltham

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.—Third (final) Examination for M.B. Degree, Easter Term, 1872. Examined and approved.

Buck, B.A., John's
Maxwell, B.A., King's
Semple, B.A., Caius
Turner, M.A., Trinity
Wanklyn, M.A., Sidney
Williams, M.A., Trinity

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL, Cambridge—House-Physician: £65 per annum. —House-Surgeon: £65 per annum.
BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN—Resident Medical Officer and Secretary: £50 per annum, board, lodging, and washing.
BOLTON UNION, Lancashire—Medical Officers for the newly formed Sharples and Little Bolton Districts: £30 per annum each.
CARNARVONSHIRE AND ANGLESEY INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon: £80 per annum.
COOMBE LYING-IN HOSPITAL, Dublin—Secretary.
DERBYSHIRE GENERAL INFIRMARY, Derby—Assistant House-Surgeon.—Dispenser: £31:10 per annum, board, lodging, and washing.
EAST LONDON HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN AND DISPENSARY FOR WOMEN—Visiting Physician.
ELHAM UNION, Kent—Medical Officer for the Hythe District: £50 per annum.
ENNISCORTHY UNION, co. Wexford—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Oulart Dispensary District: £90 per annum, and fees.—Medical Officer to the Fever Infirmary: £25 per annum.
GORT UNION, co. Galway—Apothecary to the Workhouse and the Gort Dispensary: £60 per annum.
HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Brompton—Dental Surgeon.
HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street—Assistant Physician and Medical Registrar.
LIVERPOOL NORTHERN HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon: £100 per annum, residence and maintenance.—And Junior House-Surgeon, if the present holder of the office should be appointed House-Surgeon: £80 per annum.
LIVERPOOL, Parish of—District Medical Officer: £135 per annum.
LONGTOWN UNION, Cumberland—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the High District.
MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL—Lecturer on Psychological Medicine.
NEWBURY UNION, Berks—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for District No. 2: £140 per annum, and extra fees.
NORTH SURREY SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL, Anerley—Medical Officer: £100 per annum, and fees.
PORTSEA ISLAND UNION—Medical Officer for the Workhouse.
ROYAL DRAMATIC EQUESTRIAN & MUSICAL SICK FUND—Surgeon.
ROYAL HOSPITAL OF BETHLEHEM—Assistant Medical Officer: £300 per annum, furnished residence, coal, and gas.
ROYAL NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION, Ventnor—Resident Medical Officer.
UXBRIDGE UNION, Middlesex—Medical Officer for the West Drayton District: £60 per annum.
YORK COUNTY HOSPITAL—Non-resident Dispenser: £70 per annum, and partial board.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

SOUTTER, M. C., Esq., appointed Surgeon to the Islington and North London Provident Dispensary.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

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

TUESDAYGuy'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.—West London, 3 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.

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

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered, are requested to look to the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor; those concerning business matters, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the General Manager, at the Office, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C.

ERRATA.—In last week's JOURNAL, page 620, column II, line 32 from bottom, for "Dr. Wells", read "Dr. Wilks".—In Dr. Pollard's paper, page 607, column II, line 10, the word "not" should be omitted.

VACCINATION has been called in to the aid of commercial enterprise; for an American editor, it appears, offered to vaccinate, free of charge, all new pre-paying subscribers to his paper.

MISSISSQUA WATERS.—Dr. Forbes (Aberdeen) writes: In answer to your correspondent I. K. Q. C.P.'s inquiry, about the efficacy of the Mississqua waters in the cure of cancer. I may state that I gave them a trial lately in a case of medullary cancer of the uterus, but found them of no use whatever.

VETERINARY NOMENCLATURE.—It would be a difficult matter to invent a vocabulary of harder names than that of ophthalmology. Anyone desirous of distinguishing himself may, however, derive great and pleasing assistance by a study of the names of veterinary nostrums and the commonplace terms of veterinary quacks. For example, the preparation known to some of the sporting fraternity as *Neurasthenipponskelisterizo*, added to the possession of a distinguished name, claims the high quality of curing "breakdown" in horses "of every description"; but this valuable remedy for the relief of the horse is apparently equalled, if not surpassed, by *Hoplemuroma*, which "has never been known to fail in a single instance, and is the only cure for, and preventive of brittle, shelly, and tender feet, sand cracks, seedy toe, false quarters, diseased frog, contracted feet, quitter, founder, and navicular."

BELLADONNA-POISONING.—Mr. Denne, Mr. Hodges, and a Newcastle Student suggest that the symptoms described by Mr. Hemingway in the JOURNAL of June 1st, as having been produced by spreading a belladonna plaster, arose from the inadvertent application of belladonna to the right eye.

DR. WOODWARD (Worcester).—All parties are agreed, we believe, that Poor-law medical officers should be "deputy medical officers of health"; but a difference of opinion exists whether they will not be injured by being exposed, in small districts especially, to the dangers attaching to their necessarily disagreeable action as primary medical officers of health—a position which will place them in frequent antagonism to the interests of the guardians.

REDUCTION OF ALCOHOL IN BEER.

SIR,—The analyses of Whitebread's ales given by you indicate that the amount of alcohol is, on the average, 54 per cent.; or, excluding strong ale, which is over 7 per cent., the remaining ales and porters average nearly 5 per cent.; and it is added that the full proportion of malt had been used in each. That proportion is not stated, but will, it is presumed, not differ much from two bushels per thirty-two gallons; and upon this the duty will be, as nearly as possible, three shillings and fourpence per gallon of alcohol. The duty upon spirits is ten shillings per proof gallon, or three times as much—if by alcohol the analyst means proof spirit, which contain 50 per cent. of alcohol; if, however, he means what he says, the charge upon the alcohol in ale and porter is only about one-sixth as much as the same quantity in spirits. The amount of "extract", which is 63 per cent., indicates the gum and sugar unconverted into alcohol, and, as such, are the "food" which malt liquors contain; and it is suggested that, if the malt duty were abolished, and beer charged upon its alcoholic strength—and that only—it would be to the benefit of the brewer to produce a less intoxicating and more nutritious article than he does at present—an object in which the public well-being is much interested.

I am, etc., INVESTIGATOR.

Liverpool, June 7th, 1872.

* * * The figures given for alcohol in the analyses represent absolute alcohol, and not proof spirit.

CORRESPONDENTS are particularly requested by the Editor to observe that communications relating to Advertisements, changes of address, and other business matters, should be addressed to Mr. Francis Fowke, General Secretary and Manager, at the Journal Office, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C., and not to the Editor.

A COUNTRY MEMBER.—The tariff of fees of the Shropshire Ethical Branch will supply the information.

MR. E. A. STURMAN, whose correspondence with the Dean of the Louisiana University, U.S.A., on the subject of the purchase of degrees, was recently forwarded to us for publication, writes to say that he is no longer in any way connected with the "Packington College for Ladies", of which his enclosed prospectus then described him as principal.

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS.

SIR,—Your correspondent, Dr. Burrows of Liverpool, tells us that "Out of 18,000 medical men, only 2,500 have expressed an opinion favourable to 'the Act', after being canvassed with every available influence brought to bear on them." What stronger evidence does he desire to prove that these Acts are not approved by the profession at large? and how is it possible to go beyond every "available influence" to secure converts? And yet Dr. Burrows believes more names might be obtained if "acts of agitation" were employed. The following extracts from the *Beehive*, an organ of the opponents of the Act, afford specimens of these "acts of agitation." In an article headed "The Contagious Diseases Acts", published April 6th last, we read: "At every point, our aristocratic medical legislators are madly endeavouring to legalise these hideous violations of women. . . . It is not, indeed, the limit of our labours to rid ourselves of the indecent practices of surgeons. . . . When once we shall have succeeded in making doctors keep their hands off the persons of women, all their vice-protecting laws and their immunities for profligacy will fall to pieces." We are told of a lady who "committed suicide in order to escape violation by the surgeons who were rattling at her locked door, and climbing by ladder to her bedroom window"; and, referring to the jury by matrons, it goes on to say "that doctors, having first expelled women from all opportunity of studying and practising medicine, take advantage of that fact to turn fees into their own pockets." This precious article is endorsed by the signature of a lady, the wife of a clergyman and the principal of an important educational institution, who, we assume, is acting from conscientious motives, but whose capacity to judge rightly in such a matter we may reasonably doubt.

Has Dr. Burrows's mature experience taught him to form so low an estimate of the self-respect and purity of his professional brethren, as to expect that they can regard with other feelings than those of disgust and contempt, an agitation, however good its object, which stoops to such mean, pitiful, and shameless mendacity.

I am, etc., ARGUS.

WE are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Liverpool Weekly Albion, June 8th; The Glasgow Evening Star, June 5th; The Shrewsbury Chronicle, June 7th; The Northern Whig, June 8th; The Newcastle Daily Chronicle, June 10th; The Birmingham Morning News, June 10th; The Belfast Evening Telegraph, June 8th; The Manchester Courier, June 11th; etc.

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

Sir James Alderson, London; Sir James Paget, Bart., London; Dr. George Johnson, London; Dr. Brown-Séquard, Paris; Dr. Spencer Cobbold, London; Dr. Ferrier, London; Dr. Broadbent, London; Dr. Newman, Stamford; Dr. J. Braxton Hicks, London; Mr. Spencer, Preston; Dr. J. Kent Spender, Bath; Mr. Soutter, London; Dr. F. Page, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. J. Thompson Dickson, London; Dr. James Morton, Glasgow; M.R.C.S.; Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, London; Dr. A. B. Steele, Liverpool; Mrs. W. S. Gill, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. J. Russell Reynolds, London; Mr. Francis Mason, London; Dr. Morell Mackenzie, London; Dr. Brunton, London; Mr. Barnard Holt, London; Mr. W. E. Poole, London; Mr. T. Holmes, London; Mr. R. S. Fowler, Bath; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. Tilt, London; 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. Rumsey, Cheltenham; Dr. Woodward, Worcester; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Dr. A. P. Stewart, London; Mr. Kent Jones, Beaumaris; Mr. Haviland, London; Dr. Maunsell, Dublin; Dr. Aldis, London; Mr. Wanklyn, London; Mr. Hodgson, Brighton; Dr. Latham, Cambridge; Mr. Harris, Brighton; The Rev. Dr. Haughton, Dublin; Mr. W. F. Wade, Birmingham; Mr. F. Hall, London; Mr. Charley, M.P., London; Miss Dampier; Dr. Kidd, London; Mr. Knaggs, Huddersfield; Dr. Dalton, Bournemouth; Mr. Eastes, London; Dr. A. Meadows, London; Mr. E. A. Sturman, London; Dr. Cheadle, London; Argus; Dr. Strange, Worcester; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Dr. Duffey, Dublin; Mr. Patterson, Liverpool; Dr. C. R. Drysdale, London; Dr. Procter, York; Mr. Wheelhouse, Leeds; Dr. Forbes Winslow, London; Dr. Greene, London; Dr. A. Ogston, Aberdeen; Mr. Coyne, Ullingford; Mr. Dobson, Bristol; Dr. Fleming, Birmingham; Mr. Willcox, Warmist; Mr. H. Denne, Birmingham; Mr. Hodges, York; Surgeon-Major Atchison, London; Dr. W. H. Spencer, Clifton; Dr. H. Dobell, London; Dr. Lockhart Clarke, London; Dr. Marion Sims, New York; Dr. Dieulafoy, Paris; M. Masson, Paris; Dr. Palfrey, London; Dr. F. Pollard, London; Dr. Henry Barnes, Carlisle; Mr. Thomas Cooke, London; Mr. J. W. Langmore, London; Mr. Tweedy, London; Mr. Rouse, London; Mr. Cowell, London; Mr. Savory, London; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London; Dr. Moxon, London; Dr. Sutton, London; Mr. Coates, Devonport; Dr. Forbes, Aberdeen; Our Manchester Correspondent; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Dr. Tylecote, Sandon, Stone; Mr. F. S. Maclure, Birmingham; etc.