

least, its deserving further trial. To Dr. Mitchell's valuable paper, on Marriages of Consanguinity, some space may be devoted in a future letter.

## Association Intelligence.

### BRANCH MEETING TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BATH AND BRISTOL. [Ordinary.]	White Lion Hotel, Bristol.	Thurs., May 1, 7 P.M.

### REPORT OF MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL:

*Held in Birmingham, on April 1st.*

PRESENT:—Sir C. Hastings (in the Chair); Mr. Bartleet; Mr. Cartwright; Dr. Hatton; Mr. Southam; Dr. Stewart; Mr. T. W. Williams; Mr. S. Wood; and Dr. P. H. Williams.

Mr. Webber attended to request that a committee might be appointed to inquire fully into all the circumstances brought against him by Mr. Wells in the late action for libel.

It was resolved—

"That as this Committee have no power delegated to them in the matter, they recommend that it be referred to the General Council; and that the Secretary be desired to call Mr. Webber's attention to the 17th law of the Association."

The Financial Report for 1861 having been read by the Treasurer, it was resolved—

"That the Report be received, adopted, entered on the minutes, and published in the JOURNAL."

The proposed Memorial to the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the subject of Poor-law Medical Relief was read by Mr. Cartwright, and unanimously adopted.

Resolved; "That the thanks of this Committee be given to Mr. Griffin for the valuable documents he has supplied, and for the great interest he has evinced in the important subject of Poor-law legislation; and that a copy of the Memorial be forwarded to him."

"That the Memorial be published in the JOURNAL, and that a certain number of copies be printed and sent to each member of the Select Committee, and to Sir C. Hastings for distribution."

(The Memorial will appear in next week's JOURNAL.)

"That the cordial thanks of this Committee are due and hereby tendered to the sub-Committee for the very able and judicious manner in which they have handled the complicated question of Poor-law Medical Relief, and for the Memorial drawn up and presented by them."

Dr. Stewart stated that the President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians in London had most kindly placed their Rooms at the disposal of the Association at the Annual meeting in August.

Resolved; "That the best thanks of this Committee be given to the Royal College of Physicians; to the Committee of Management in London; to Dr. Stewart and Dr. Henry, the Honorary Secretaries; and to various other medical gentlemen for their proposed polite attentions to the members of the Association."

CHARLES HASTINGS,  
PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *Gen. Sec.*

Worcester, April 1862.

### FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1861.

THE following is the report of the sums received and paid by the Treasurer from January 1st to December 31st, 1861.

31st, 1861.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
Due from Treasurer .....		27	18	0½
Subscriptions and Arrears .....		2050	0	6
Voluntary Contributions .....		6	10	0
Advertisements, etc. ....		736	7	3
Total Receipts .....		2820	15	9½
EXPENDITURE.				
JOURNAL EXPENSES:				
Mr. Richards (Printing) .....		1736	8	6
Mr. Honeyman (Sundries) .....		74	7	0
Mr. Davidson (Commission) .....		73	10	0
Mr. Orrin Smith (Engraving) .....		5	4	0
Salaries:—Dr. Wynter, Dr. Markham, & Dr. Henry .....		325	0	6
Contributors to Journal .....		306	0	6
Interest and Commission at Bankers .....		7	3	10
EXECUTIVE EXPENSES:				
Secretary and Clerk .....		117	0	0
Secretary's Sundries .....		49	14	6
Error in Secretary's Account .....		5	0	0
District Expenses; Envelopes; Post-Office Orders; and Collecting .....		14	2	3
Balance .....		2713	10	7
		107	5	2½
		2820	15	9½

The following were the Assets and Liabilities on January 1st, 1862:—

ASSETS.		£	s.	d.
Subscriptions due .....		500	0	0
Advertisements .....		300	0	0
Balance due from Treasurer .....		107	5	2½
		907	5	2½
LIABILITIES.				
Mr. Richards for Printing, due Dec. 31 .....		420	16	0
Mr. Richards' old acc. unt. ....		116	16	0
Mr. Richards' Publishing Account for 1861 .....		70	0	0
Mr. Honeyman (Sundries) .....		79	5	2½
		666	17	2½
Balance in favour of the Association, Dec. 31 ..		240	8	0

It affords your Committee much pleasure to be enabled to present so favourable a financial report; and they feel assured it will be considered very satisfactory by the members of the Association.

In the financial statement of last year, the Committee were induced to say: "Altogether, the prospect is encouraging, as there is reason to believe that by the exercise of a prudent economy, the Association will, at the commencement of the year 1862, be free from the old debt."

Your Committee are glad to find that the above prophecy will now be fulfilled, as the increased balance in the hands of the Treasurer will enable him to pay off the remainder of the old debt due to Mr. Richards, which has for some time past been a burthen upon the funds of the Association.

The income of the Society is greater than in the previous year; and this increase of income not only arises from the increased amount of subscriptions paid, but also from the advertisements and sales having been more productive.

The expenditure has been rather higher. This increase is partly owing to the Association having spent more upon the editorial department of the JOURNAL, of which, no doubt, the members generally will approve.

With regard to the assets and liabilities, there is very little alteration in them.

Both of these items will be found rather more than they were last year.

Your Committee are well aware, that it will be neces-

sary still to exercise great care in the administration of the funds entrusted to their charge, for the income is but slightly in excess of the expenditure.

Still, if members will pay their subscriptions with regularity, and the income from advertisements shall continue to increase, there is a fair prospect of the year upon which we have entered showing a satisfactory result.

## Reports of Societies.

### ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25TH, 1862.

B. G. BABINGTON, M.D., President, in the Chair.

#### A STATISTICAL INQUIRY INTO THE PREVALENCE OF NUMEROUS CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE CONSTITUTION IN ONE THOUSAND PHTHISICAL PERSONS WHEN IN HEALTH.

BY EDWARD SMITH, M.D., LL.B., F.R.S.

THE author, after some preliminary remarks, described the method which was pursued in the inquiry, and offered an estimation of the trustworthiness and value of the answers which he had recorded. There were 600 male and 400 female cases, all attending at the Hospital for Consumption, and in the stages of marked consolidation or destruction of the lungs. He then quoted the scheme of inquiry proposed to each patient, consisting of 138 queries, and the following is a summary of the facts obtained:—

The average age of the patients was 28·8 years. 30 per cent. had been born in London, 36 per cent. had lived chiefly in London, and 53 per cent. had lived in London during the preceding three years. 8·8 per cent. could not read nor write, and only 14·3 per cent. had been insufficiently nourished.

1. *Parental conditions.* 54 per cent. had lost the father; 46 per cent. the mother; and 28 per cent. had lost both parents. In 25 per cent. only were both parents living. The average age of the parents at death was 50·8 years, with an increased duration of 4·7 years on the part of the fathers. The most frequent age at death was 35 to 55 years; whilst only 11 per cent. died under the age of 35, and some lived upwards of 95 years. 18 per cent. had experienced feeble health before the birth of the patient, and 34 per cent. throughout life. In 22·7 per cent. one or both parents had led unsteady lives. 21·1 per cent. of the parents had died of consumption; whilst in 2·8 per cent. the grandparents, 23·3 per cent. the brothers or sisters, and 9·1 per cent. the uncles or aunts, had died of the same disease. They had suffered from rheumatism in 22 per cent., from asthma in 9·4 per cent., from liver disease and gout in 9 and 7·2 per cent.; and from fevers, ague, insanity, and diabetes in 4 and 5 per cent. Presumed scrofulous affections were extremely rare. In only 6 cases was there consanguinity of the parents.

The age of the parents at the birth of the patient was in half of the cases from 25 years to 35 years; and in only 2 per cent. was it less than 20 years. The number of the children was very large—viz., an average of 7·5 to a family, and in some families there were 23 children. The patient was the first child in 20 per cent.; and the first, second, or third child in half of all the cases. 40 per cent. of the parents' children had died.

2. *Personal conditions.* In only 23 per cent. were the patients under 20, and a few were 60 years of age. 24 per cent. had been feeble at birth, whilst 22 per cent. had suffered from feeble general health and 17 per cent. from generally defective appetite. In 12·6 per cent. the lungs

had been always delicate; 2·5 per cent. had been dry nursed; 25·4 per cent. had perspired with unusual freedom; 25 per cent. had never worn flannel next the skin; and 55 per cent. had suffered from coldness of the extremities. 72·5 per cent. had an excitable temperament; 62·1 per cent. had medium brown, or light coloured hair; 74 per cent. had grey or blue eyes; 60 per cent. had florid complexions; and 46·7 per cent. had a fleshy habit.

16, 65·4, 60, and 41 per cent. had not had measles, scarlet fever, small pox, and whooping cough in their order; and the frequency of any long continued ill effect from these diseases was insignificant. 12·8 per cent. had suffered from enlarged glands, and 4·5 per cent. from long continued affections of the eyes; but otherwise, the evidences of scrofulous disease scarcely existed. 16·7 per cent. had suffered from inflammation of the lungs, and 14·8 per cent. from rheumatism; whilst typhus fever and frequent diarrhoea had occurred in 8 per cent., ague in 5·6 per cent., and liver disease in 4·3 per cent. of the cases.

The menstrual epoch was at the age of 14 and 15 in 36·4 per cent., and in 11 per cent. only was it before the age of 13; 40 per cent. had complained of general irregularity, and in 29 per cent. the quantity was insufficient. Leucorrhœa was considerable in 42·2 per cent. 43·5 per cent. were married; and of these 13 per cent. were childless at the period of inquiry. Their average age at the birth of their first child was from 20 to 25 years, and in only 9 per cent. were they under 20 years. The number of children per family was 1 and 2 in 44 per cent., and 1, 2, and 3 in 55 per cent. (the patients' average age was 28·8 years.) 38 per cent. of the children had died, and in 43 per cent. the general state of the health of the children was bad. Abortions had occurred in 46·2 per cent. of the child-bearing married women, and some had suffered eight abortions.

11·6 per cent. of the males had committed sexual abuse; 18·2 per cent. had been addicted to masturbation, and 22 per cent. had suffered from involuntary emissions. 16 per cent. had had syphilis, and 38·5 per cent. gonorrhœa; one on several occasions. 29·6 per cent. had led a bad life at some period, 24·5 per cent. had drunk to excess, and 48 per cent. had smoked tobacco; 19·3 per cent. of both sexes had submitted to late hours, and 22·2 per cent. had suffered much anxiety. In 70 per cent. there was some complaint as to the injurious influence of their occupations, and of those causes, exposure, long hours, close and hot rooms, bending posture, and dust or fumes, were complained of in 32·1, 28·6, 24·4, 20, and 15·8 per cent., in their order. 9 per cent. had taken mercury largely, and 54·4 per cent. had been bled at the arm from 1 to 12 times.

The author then considered some of the most important truths which the inquiry had evoked, and particularly the questions connected with hereditary transmission; the especial liability of the female sex to many of the conditions pointed out, and the state of the system; the diseases, and the effects of the immoralities of life upon the patients. In reference to the greater liability of females over males, it was shown, in reference to parents, that more mothers than fathers had children early, had feeble general health, and had died early. More female than male patients had mothers who died early; had most relatives who had died of phthisis; had parents with one child only; had experienced feeble health and defective appetite throughout life; had had delicacy of the lungs; had married when very young; had feeble children; had lost most children; had suffered from anxiety; had had measles, scarlet fever, and whooping cough; had not worn flannel next the skin; had a very defective education; were of susceptible temperament; had brown eyes, florid complexion, and fleshy habit, and had suffered from coldness of the extremities.

# Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. The following gentlemen passed the first part of the professional examination for the licence of the College, on April 4th, 1862:—

Bunt, Thomas, 13, Ryder Crescent  
Bostock, Edward Ingram, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Fagge, Frederick Thomas, Guy's Hospital  
Hall, Samuel, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Kempthorne, Henry Law, King's College  
Mackintosh, Hugh Richard Duncan, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Reynolds, John, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Stone, Robert Sidney, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Thorne, Richard Thorne, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Whipple, Connell, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

## APPOINTMENTS.

MIDDLEMIST, R. P., Esq., elected Honorary Surgeon to the Dramatic, Equestrian, and Musical Sick Fund Association.  
POCOCK, Crawford J., Esq., appointed House-Surgeon to the Brighton and Hove Dispensary.

ROYAL NAVY. The following appointments have been made:—

CRAIG, Thomas, Esq., Surgeon, to the *Zebra*.  
FORREST, E. P., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Royal Adelaide*.  
HATTERSLY, N. O., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Coquette*.  
O'BRIEN, Joseph, Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Zebra*.

MILITIA. The following appointments have been made:—

BRYDON, W., Esq., C.B., to be Surgeon Highland Rifle Militia.  
GINSON, C., M.D., to be Surgeon Stirlingshire, etc., Highland Borderers Light Infantry British Militia.

VOLUNTEER CORPS. The following appointments have been made (A.V.—Artillery Volunteers; R.V.—Rifle Volunteers):—

COGAN, C. C., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 5th Kent A.V.  
HOLDERNESSE, W. B., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 2nd Berks R.V.  
LLOYD, E., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 46th Middlesex R.V.  
THWAITES, T. B., Esq., to be Surgeon 4th Durham R.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon:—

JAPP, J., Esq., 22nd Kent R.V.  
RENDLE, C. B., Esq., 9th Suffolk R.V.

## DEATHS.

BAZIRE. On February 16th, at Port Louis, Mauritius, aged 21, Henrietta, wife of Victor Bazire, M.D.  
BROWN. On April 3rd, aged 19, Ellen, only daughter of John Brown, M.D., of Islington.  
BROWN, Peter, Esq., Surgeon, formerly of Tonbridge, at Twickenham, aged 74, on April 8.  
BUCK, Thomas, M.D., at 11, Princes Place, Kennington Park, aged 47, on March 27.  
PARROCK, Stephen, Esq., formerly Assistant-Surgeon 12th Madras Native Infantry, at Hayes Park, Middlesex, aged 81, on April 6.  
TAYLOR. On April 17th, at Worthing, aged 5, Arthur G., youngest son of John Taylor, M.D., of Bayswater.  
WILLMOTT. On April 5th, at Guines, aged 17, Alfred P., second son of Alfred Willmott, M.D., Weston-super-Mare.

SIR BENJAMIN BRODIE has a second series of his *Psychological Inquiries* nearly ready for publication by Messrs. Longman and Co.

A NEW HEMOSTATIC AGENT of great power has been recently announced. It is an extremely delicate and beautiful fern from Java, the Pengawar Jamba, (*Palea Tibotii*), provided with very fine filaments, which are said to be used for the above purpose with great effect.

PARLIAMENTARY. In the House of Commons, the College of Physicians (Ireland) Bill, and Netley Hospital Estate Bill, have been read a third time and passed. The Lord Advocate has obtained leave to bring in a Bill to make further provision respecting lunacy in Scotland.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTION. Government having resolved on lodging Professor Owen and his interesting collection of Natural History at

South Kensington, a formal application has been made from Downing Street to her Majesty's Commissioners for 1851 for space.

VACANCIES. The following appointments are vacant: Physician and Assistant Physician to St. George's Hospital; by the resignation of Dr. Bence Jones, M.D. and M.A. Trin. Coll. Cantab., F.R.C.P. Lond.; and Dr. A. W. Barclay. Surgeon to the Chester General Infirmary; House Surgeon and Apothecary to the Lincoln General Dispensary; and Medical Officer to the Second District of the Tunbridge Union.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL. The following resolution was adopted by the City of London Common Council:—"That the aldermen and commoners who are governors of St. Thomas's Hospital, be respectfully requested to watch the proceedings of the authorities in relation to the removal of the said hospital; and, as representatives of the corporation, to give their best assistance in promoting the re-erection of the hospital in such a situation in the south district, in near proximity to the City of London, as shall be most accessible to the afflicted poor, as well as conducive to their restoration to health." The motion, after some discussion, was unanimously agreed to.

SUICIDE OF A SURGEON. An inquest was held last week at Bow, relative to the death of Mr. John Ford, aged 74 years, a surgeon, who committed self-destruction by taking a large quantity of prussic acid. Miss Ford said the deceased was her father. He was a surgeon, but for some time past had been in pecuniary difficulties. While she was sitting in the drawing-room with her mother, a noise was heard upstairs. Witness went up, and found her father in a state of insensibility lying upon the bed. The deceased had been driven to desperation through his pecuniary difficulties. Mr. Cooper, surgeon, said that he was of opinion that the deceased died from swallowing a large quantity of prussic acid. The jury returned a verdict of "Temporary insanity."

COSTLESS VENTILATION. "The method I use," writes Mr. P. H. Bird, "is simple, economical, quite free from draught, and does not get out of order. Raise the lower sash of the window, and place in front of the opening at the bottom rail a piece of wood of any approved depth: this leaves a corresponding space between the meeting rails in the middle of the window, through which the current of air is directed upwards towards the ceiling: heavy blacks cannot ascend with the air, which is driven so high as to be warmed before it descends. The principle may be modified in various ways, making the bottom frame of wire blinds supersede the strip of wood: in a word, open the lower sash of the window two or three inches, and block it up anyhow, and the air enters the space in the middle, and is carried to the ceiling."

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. Medical science has claims which seem to override war. It sounds strange to hear of the proposed meeting of the above association at Richmond or Charleston. The *American Medical Times* writes:—"We trust there will be no delay in issuing the official notice of the meeting. It is well stated that 'there has been no time in the history of the country, when our medical societies, both local and general, could be more useful than at present.' Questions of great practical interest have arisen since its last meeting, which demand discussion and settlement. If we had any doubt whatever in regard to the propriety of this meeting, it would be as to the place; if it is very desirable, as is alleged, that 'our southern brethren' meet with the association, it might perhaps be well to hold the meeting at Nashville, Richmond, or Charleston."

THE CHAIR OF OBSTETRICS IN THE PARIS FACULTY IN MEDICINE has just become vacant, owing to the death of

Moreau, the eminent accoucheur, who was a man of undoubted ability. I have not yet heard who is likely to become his successor. I am told that Pajot, for reasons into which I need not enter, has no chance of it; though, from his position in the *Hôpital des Cliniques*, Pajot is one of the finest lecturers on the clinical staff. I may also add that he is not the successor of Dubois, as I inadvertently stated in my letter, but a *professeur agrégé*, who performs the duties of Dubois at the *clinique d'accouchements*; the name of the latter being still retained on the roll of clinical teachers. Pajot is rather tall, and a very handsome man, of light figure, active and energetic in his movements: he has regular features, a closely shaven face, and long flowing hair of a gray colour, though he is still comparatively young. He possesses a considerable amount of *esprit*—in fact, is quite theatrical in his manner,—certainly the most vivacious Frenchman I have seen amongst the members of the profession in Paris; and, I should say, possessed of too great a power of sarcasm to be at all a favourite with those who may be unfortunate enough to smart under its influence. (Dr. W. Turner, in *Edin. Medical Journal*, March 1862.)

CLAUDE BERNARD is rather tall, and graceful in his bearing, with a thoughtful cast of countenance which is very pleasing, and bears the stamp of intellectual power. His hair is long, dark, and thinly scattered, with some baldness on the summit. He is a man whose *tout ensemble* is remarkably prepossessing, but whom it is impossible adequately to describe in the meagre sketch which my limited space permits me to give. Though, in one sense, an eloquent speaker, his elocution is of such a peculiar nature as to render his lectures rather difficult of apprehension. This is specially the case when he is elucidating some abstruse point; he then seems at first to labour for utterance; this hesitation, however, is soon overcome, and he finishes his remarks with great rapidity and fluency. Up to the present time he has been engaged in describing the physical and vital properties of the elementary tissues; and, latterly, his lectures have been more especially interesting, as he has been dwelling upon the nervous and muscular forces, the distinctions between them, etc., and enforcing his arguments by a series of convincing experiments upon the unfortunate frog species. (Dr. W. Turner, in *Edin. Med. Journal*, March 1862.)

MEDICAL CHARGES. A great deal has been written about the matter; but, as it is beyond the reach of legislation, medical charges will remain, as heretofore, almost entirely dependent on private judgment as to whether they are to be much or little. All that legislation has been able to do is to enact that medical men shall be paid *reasonably* for what they have done. No general rules can be laid down exactly to define what is *reasonable*, only a sort of approximation can be ventured at. What is *reasonable* can perhaps only be arrived at by illustrating what is *unreasonable*. A bill of £10 against a cabman is unreasonable, or against any common labourer, or even journeyman or foreman mechanic. Any charge of above of 2s. 6d. a day against such people is objectionable, except under very unusual circumstances. To allow bills to accumulate year after year, or even to let a bill include two illnesses, in dealing with the humble classes is unreasonable. If charged lightly by medical men, and supplied with as little attendance and medicine as each case will possibly admit, the humbler classes would not resort so much to chemists and druggists as they now do. The humbler classes should pay according to their means, and not according to what they have had. In all other debts they are expected to pay strictly, according to what they have had, irrespective of what their means may be. Thus the medical man stands somehow, in a different position with regard to society, to other men. Experience, therefore, does

not even show how he is to charge. (*The London and Provincial Medical Protection Society's Circular*.) [Nothing could more clearly show the necessity for the general establishment of sick clubs for mechanics. EDITOR.]

SCIENTIFIC BRUTALITY. The first case, I think, is characteristic of the genius of the man (*Maissonneuve*): viz., amputation of the forearm by the use of the *flèche*. I did not see it myself, as it occurred in summer, but the details have been furnished to me by a friend who was present on the occasion. The first step in the operation was the breaking of the bones, which was accomplished in the following manner: two blocks of wood, at a short distance from each other, were placed upon the arm, then a curved iron bar was passed beneath it at the part corresponding to the interval between the blocks, while a small chain extended from one end of the bar to the other over the arm, and was attached to a screwing apparatus, by means of which the bar was gradually forced upwards, and counterpressure was made upon the blocks, until at last the two bones were compelled to give way; this was done without chloroform. The *flèches* were then introduced into the flesh in a circular manner round the circumference of the arm. The patient succumbed in about a day thereafter. The amputation was performed for some affection of the hand, from the effects of which the patient would have died in a short time at any rate. What was the object in performing the operation in this somewhat novel manner, my friend could not inform me, unless it was as an *experimentum crucis*. (Dr. W. Turner in *Edin. Med. Journal*, March, 1862.)

SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION. In the Department of Public Health, papers are classed under the following heads:—I. *The Condition of the Public Health*. The subjects, chiefly statistical, referred to this head, will comprise everything that relates to the past or present state of the public health. Papers descriptive of the general state of health of particular districts, or of the same districts at different periods, or under different circumstances, and of persons engaged in the several industrial occupations, as well as of the special diseases to which particular localities, and modes of life, or of occupation, are most liable, will be classed under this division. II. *The Causes which modify the Public Health*. To this head will be referred papers that treat of the causes which, whether favourably or injuriously, affect the public health, and the mode in which these causes act. This division will thus include the consideration of the production of disease by external causes to which persons, either individually or collectively, are liable to be exposed: such as climate, soil, locality, habitation, diet, occupation, station, or habit. III. *The Improvement of the Public Health*. Communications that suggest plans for the amendment of the public health, whether these have reference to legislative enactments, and the machinery requisite for the administration of sanitary law; to the removal of causes of disease by engineering or other mechanical appliances; or to the prevention of disease by hygienic precautions, will be classed under this head. IV. *Social and Economical Aspects of Public Health*. This division will include inquiry into the effect of diminished death-rates upon the population; the effect of sanitary improvement on the national wealth; the diminution of pauperism, and the general moral and physical elevation of the community.

ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY. On the 1st inst. a paper was read "On the Antiquity of Man from the Evidence of Language;" by the President. The periods usually assigned for man's first appearance necessarily date, said the author, only from the time when he had attained such an amount of civilisation as to frame some kind of record of his own career, and take no

account of the many ages which must have transpired before he could have attained that power. Language is not innate, but adventitious; a mere acquirement, having its origin in the superiority of the human understanding. Infants are without language; they acquire it as the brain matures, by instruction, and can learn with equal facility any language whatever. There is another proof in the prodigious number of languages which exist, with very various ranges of sounds, simplicity, or complexity. Such a state necessarily implies a distinct formation of every independent tongue. The first rudiments of language must have consisted of a few artificial sounds, attempted by savages to make known their wants to each other; and from these first efforts to the time in which language had attained the completeness which we find it to have reached amongst the rudest tribes ever known to us, countless ages must be presumed to have elapsed. The Egyptians must have attained a large measure of civilisation before they invented symbolic or phonetic writing, and yet we find it in the most ancient of their monuments. The invention of letters has been made at many different points, extending from Italy to China—a clear proof that language had many independent sources. But such is the antiquity of the invention that we can hardly in any case tell when or by whom it was made. Epochs or eras depending on the art of writing were of course of still later or more recent origin. The Greek epoch only dates 776, and the Roman 753 years before the birth of Christ. The author then dwelt on the evidence afforded in the construction and grammar of languages, and concluded by urging that the birth of man was of vast antiquity, and that every race has had to achieve the arduous and tedious task of constructing speech, which, even in the rudest form in which we find it, must have taken many thousands of years to accomplish.

**PHRENOLOGY.** One would have thought that, after his execution, people would no longer talk of the famous Dumollard, the servant killer; but on the contrary, it now happens that his skull has fallen into the hands of phrenology, and the disciples of Gall and Spurzheim seek to prop up their theories with the bumps of this head severed by the executioner. It is exceedingly curious to see the results arrived at by enthusiastic phrenologists who have studied this skull, and the efforts they have made to "specify" the general faculties they have observed. For instance, they admit that Dumollard had not the bump of murder; but they do not consider themselves beaten for so little. In return, he had the bump of "secretiveness," or, in other words, cunning. But what is less easy for them to account for is, that he also possessed the bump of benevolence—which is rather startling. Nevertheless, by making a strict search of his life they find something that does not roundly contradict even this fact. It seems that phrenology is as elastic as India-rubber.

## POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON — APRIL 5, 1862.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Boys ..1085	Deaths.
During week.....	{ Girls..1010 }	2095 1299
Average of corresponding weeks 1852-61 .....		1854 1341

### Barometer:

Highest (Fri.) 29.931; lowest (Sun.) 29.221; mean, 29.606.

### Thermometer:

Highest in sun—extremes (Th.) 107 degs.; (Sun. & Fri.) 62 degs.

In shade—highest (Th.) 63.7 degrees; lowest (Tu.) 41 degs.

Mean—48.6 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs. 44.5 degs.

Range—during week, 22.7 degrees; mean daily, 12.2 degrees.

Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 89.

Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.39.

## OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY..... Royal Free, 2 P.M.—Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's for Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum, 1.15 P.M.  
TUESDAY. .... Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY... St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopedic, 2 P.M.  
THURSDAY.... St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—London, 1.30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.  
FRIDAY. .... Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.  
SATURDAY.... St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.

## MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY. Geographical, 8.30 P.M.—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M.: Dr. Habershon, "On some Cases of Typhus Fever."  
TUESDAY. Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.—Statistical, 8 P.M.—Pathological, 8 P.M.—Ethnological, 8 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY. Geological, 8 P.M.  
THURSDAY. Zoological, 4 P.M.—Harveian, 8 P.M.—Linnæan, 8 P.M.—Chemical, 8 P.M.  
FRIDAY. Western Medical and Surgical, 8 P.M.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**\*\* All letters and communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.**

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

**BACK NUMBERS.**—We beg to thank several members for back numbers of the JOURNAL.

**DINNER to MR. THOMAS MARTIN.**—We are requested to state that the dinner, to which a few professional friends have invited Mr. Martin, of Reigate, will take place on Friday, the 25th of April, at the "Albion", in Aldersgate Street, at seven o'clock precisely. Mr. Proport will take the chair; and Mr. Hood and Mr. Erichsen will act as stewards.

**THE FIRST LIGATURE OF THE INTERNAL ILIAC ARTERY.**—SIR: In the last number of the JOURNAL, under the heading of "A Slight Error", it is stated that I have in the last edition of Cooper's *Surgical Dictionary*, attributed to "Mr. Hudson, of New York", instead of to "Dr. S. P. White, formerly of Hudson, in the State of New York", the merit of having first tied the internal iliac artery in America.

This error is not mine, but Mr. Cooper's. It occurs in the edition of 1838, from which the new issue of the *Dictionary* has been compiled.

Knowing the accuracy and industry of my former teacher and excellent friend Mr. S. Cooper, I left his references as I found them, not thinking it necessary to verify them.

I am, etc.,

JOHN E. ERICHSEN.

6, Cavendish Place, April 8th, 1862.

[A high surgical authority writes to us under this head:—"That the correction of the *American Medical Times* (referred to), requires being corrected." In Cooper's *Dictionary*, you will find that the internal iliac was first tied by Stevens, of Santa Cruz, in 1812. The preparation was dissected by Owen, and is now in the museum of the London College of Surgeons."]

**MEMBERS desirous of having their VOLUMES of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for 1861 COMPLETED**, are respectfully requested, at their earliest convenience, to inform the Publisher, at the office, 37, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.

**COMMUNICATIONS** have been received from:—Dr. THOMAS WILLIAMS; Mr. A. PRICHARD; Mr. WILLIAM COPNEY; Mr. JOHN WARD; Mr. R. SYKES; Mr. G. BULLEN, jun.; Mr. H. MARSHALL; Mr. J. WEAVER; MEDICUS; Dr. W. B. MUSHET; Mr. RICHARD GRIFFIN; Mr. J. P. HILL; Mr. R. P. MIDDLEMIST; Dr. T. K. CHAMBERS; THE REGISTRAR of the MEDICAL SOCIETY of LONDON; Dr. ROSS; Mr. JAMES BIRD; Mr. DULVEY; Dr. F. J. BROWN; Dr. A. MARTIN; Dr. P. H. WILLIAMS; Mr. C. L. ALLWORK; Dr. ARMSTRONG; COMMON SENSE; Mr. T. M. STONE; Dr. GRAILY HEWITT; Mr. SYME; Dr. H. MARSHALL; and DELTA.

**JOURNALS WANTED.**—Several members, who have joined the Association during the past year, are desirous of having their volumes complete for the year 1861; but this has been prevented by many of the earlier numbers being out of print. The publisher will therefore be greatly obliged, if gentlemen who do not bind their Journal, or desire to keep it, will kindly forward him the numbers contained in the first volume for 1861 (January to June).

### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE following Laws of the Association will be strictly enforced:—

15. The subscription to the Association shall be One Guinea annually; and each member on paying his subscription shall be entitled to receive the publications of the Association of the current year. The subscriptions shall date from the 1st of January in each year, and shall be considered as due unless notice of withdrawal be given in writing to the Secretary on or before the 25th of December previous. If any member's subscription remain unpaid twelve months after it shall have become due, the publications of the Society shall be withheld from such member until his arrears be paid.

16. The name of no member shall remain on the books of the Association, whose arrears extend over three years; but the omission of the name from the list of members shall not be deemed, either in honour or equity, to relieve any member from his liability for the subscriptions due for the period during which he has availed himself of the privileges of membership.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *General Secretary.*

Worcester, April 1862.

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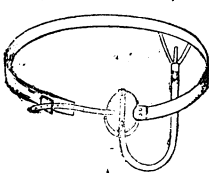
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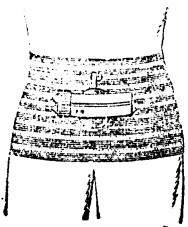
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See *The Lancet*, May 4th, 1861, and *Medical Times*, June 23rd, 1860.