

for a chair in Anderson's University, it may here be stated that the appointment is vested in no fewer than eighty-one patrons, each of whom has a vote (by ballot). Moreover, the eighty-one trustees are of the most heterogeneous description. According to the will of the founder of the institution, they are divided into nine classes, with nine members in each class. These classes are, tradesmen, agriculturists, artists, manufacturers or merchants, mediciners ("an old Scotch word, which comprehends doctors of medicine, surgeons, apothecaries, and druggists"), lawyers, divines, natural philosophers, and kinsmen or namesakes. Each of these groups of nine fills up any vacancies which may occur in its own numbers, and in this respect, therefore, the groups remain isolated. When a canvass has to be made among a heterogeneous mass such as this, it is no wonder that somewhat unusual methods are sometimes employed. The following is the copy of a circular letter which has been sent in a lithographed form by one of the candidates to his patients and admirers. The letter is nearly as wonderful for its treatment of the English language as for the cool assumption of transcendent and undoubted fitness for the appointment which it presents. Although it begins "My dear sir", we have it on undoubted authority that the female as well as the male admirers of the candidate have been called upon to lend their aid. The letter is as follows.

"My dear sir,—The chair of practice of medicine in Anderson's University will soon be at the disposal of the enclosed list of gentlemen, and I am very anxious to secure the appointment. The number of trustees is so great, however, and I am personally acquainted with so few of them, that I cannot hope to be successful without I have (*sic*) the hearty co-operation of my friends. I earnestly ask if you will give me all the aid you can. You will still further oblige me if you will let me know the names of the trustees whom you think you can influence in my favour. If possible, get them to promise to vote for me. If you succeed, perhaps you will not think I am tasking your friendship too much in asking you to get them to promise likewise to go to the poll, as I am quite sure, on a previous occasion, I lost a chair by some of those who promised to vote for me not going forward to record their votes. I am exceedingly anxious to secure this appointment, and your help will be most thankfully received and appreciated by yours most sincerely."

Besides the author of this, who is undoubtedly the popular candidate, there are two others in the field for the chair of practice of medicine; but, of their respective merits, it is not for us to speak here. There are also three candidates for the chair of anatomy vacated by Dr. George Buchanan, all of them accomplished anatomists, who have had considerable experience in teaching.

Anyone who has ever spent any time in Glasgow or its neighbourhood must have heard of Gartnavel Lunatic Asylum, and has probably also learnt something of its venerable physician and superintendent, Dr. Mackintosh. This gentleman, after a long course of service, in which he has distinguished himself for his keen insight and practical shrewdness, has resigned, and so we have another important appointment vacant. Dr. Alexander Robertson, at present physician and superintendent of the Town's Hospital, is one of the candidates, and, from all we can learn, is likely to be successful. He has, at any rate, the good wishes of the great bulk of the profession in Glasgow.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, London, on Thursday, the 2nd day of July next, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

37, Great Queen Street, London, June 11th, 1874.

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Town Hall, Buckingham, on Thursday, the 25th June, at 2 P.M.—Dr. BRYAN, President; Robert DE'ATH, Esq., President-elect.

Refreshments kindly provided from 1 P.M. to 1.30 P.M. previously, by Robert De'ATH, Esq., at his residence.

Dinner, at the White Hart Hotel, at 5 P.M. Tickets, 6s. each, including waiters.

Gentlemen intending to furnish papers and cases, are requested to send the titles of same at once to Dr. Bryan, or to

W. MOXON, *Honorary Secretary*.

Northampton, May 27th, 1874.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Norwich, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, August 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th, 1874.

President—Sir WILLIAM FERGUSON, Bart., F.R.S., Surgeon to King's College Hospital, London.

President-elect—EDWARD COPEMAN, M.D., Senior Physician to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

The business of the Association will be transacted in four Sections, viz.:—

SECTION A. MEDICINE.—*President*: Dr. Eade, Norwich. *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. Sydney Ringer, London; Dr. Durrant, Ipswich. *Secretaries*: Dr. Bradbury, Cambridge; Dr. Lowe, Lynn.

SECTION B. SURGERY.—*President*: Sir James Paget, Bart., F.R.S., London. *Vice-Presidents*: T. W. Crosse, Esq., Norwich; Dr. Macnamara, Dublin. *Secretaries*: F. Worthington, Esq., Lowestoft; Reginald Harrison, Esq., Liverpool.

SECTION C. OBSTETRIC MEDICINE.—*President*: Dr. Churchill, Dublin. *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. W. S. Playfair, London; Dr. Steele, Liverpool. *Secretaries*: Dr. Edis, London; F. Image, Esq., Bury St. Edmunds.

SECTION D. PUBLIC MEDICINE.—*President*: W. H. Michael, Esq., London; *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. Bateman, Norwich; Dr. Ransome, Bowden. *Secretaries*: Dr. Bond, Gloucester; Dr. Leech, Manchester.

The Honorary Local Secretaries are:

Dr. J. B. PITT, Norwich.

H. S. ROBINSON, Esq., Norwich.

Dr. BEVERLEY, Norwich.

TUESDAY, August 11th.

10.30 A.M.—CATHEDRAL SERVICE.

1 P.M.—MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

3 P.M.—MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, 1873-74.

8 P.M.—GENERAL MEETING—President's Address, Annual Report of Council, and other business.

WEDNESDAY, August 12th.

9.30 A.M.—MEETING OF COUNCIL, 1874-75.

11.30 A.M.—SECOND GENERAL MEETING.

11.30 A.M.—ADDRESS IN MEDICINE, by Dr. RUSSELL REYNOLDS, F.R.S.

2 to 5 P.M.—SECTIONAL MEETINGS.

9 P.M.—SOIRÉE AT ST. ANDREW'S HALL.

THURSDAY, August 13th.

9 A.M.—MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

10 A.M.—THIRD GENERAL MEETING—Reports of Committees.

11 A.M.—ADDRESS IN SURGERY, by WILLIAM CADGE, Esq.

2 to 5 P.M.—SECTIONAL MEETINGS.

6.30 P.M.—PUBLIC DINNER.

FRIDAY, August 14th.

10 A.M.—ADDRESS IN OBSTETRIC MEDICINE, by Dr. MATTHEWS DUNCAN.

11 A.M.—SECTIONAL MEETINGS.

1.30 P.M.—CONCLUDING GENERAL MEETING.

EXCURSIONS.—The Excursion Committee will make arrangements for the convenience of members and their friends wishing to visit the factories and places of interest in the city and neighbourhood during the meeting, and for parties of ladies and gentlemen to do so on Friday afternoon.

On Saturday, there will be excursions to geological and botanical stations and places of antiquarian and general interest in Norfolk and Suffolk.

The Honorary Secretary will endeavour to arrange for gentlemen well acquainted with the locality to accompany the parties on Friday and Saturday.

Any information will be given by Mr. H. B. FRANCIS, St. Clement's, Norwich, Honorary Secretary to the Excursion Committee.

Members of the Association will receive cards for the above proceedings, evening meetings, etc., at the Reception Room, Assembly Rooms, Norwich.

ANNUAL MUSEUM.

The seventh annual Museum of the British Medical Association will be held at the Assembly Rooms, and will be open daily from 10 A.M. till 6 P.M., on August 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th, for the exhibition of the following objects.

1. Latest inventions in medical and surgical instruments and appliances of all kinds.

2. New chemicals and apparatus; new drugs and their preparations; and new articles of diet for invalids.

3. General pathological specimens; with photographic models, drawings, etc., illustrating disease.

4. Urinary calculi; with drawings or diagrams of urinary disease, and of operations on the urinary organs. Also instruments with diagrams, etc., illustrating the history of the operation of lithotomy from the earliest periods up to the present day.

5. Drawings, diagrams, or models illustrating the ventilation of hospitals and private dwellings.

6. Microscopic pathological specimens.

The following is a list of the Museum Committee; to any member of which communications, etc., may be addressed—Mr. William Cadge, *Chairman*, 24, St. Giles' Street, Norwich; Mr. Francis Sutton, London Street, Norwich; Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, 4, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.; Mr. Joseph Allen, Tombland, Norwich; Mr. Francis Fowke, 37, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.; Mr. Chas. Williams, 9, Prince of Wales' Road, Norwich; Mr. J. R. Baumgartner, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital; Mr. Charles Firth, *Hon. Sec.*, 65, St. Giles' Street, Norwich.

NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS.—Application to be made as soon as possible, at the same time giving a list of objects, and mentioning the space required. Each object to be accompanied by a printed or written description, or reference, for insertion in the Catalogue; and it is important that these descriptions should be sent *as early as possible*—viz., not later than July 28th.

All parcels to be delivered on or before August 4th, and to be removed within three days after August 14th. They must be addressed "British Medical Association, care of C. Firth, Esq., Assembly Rooms, Norwich". All expenses of carriage and all risk to be borne by the exhibitors. A card bearing the name and address of the exhibitor to be enclosed in each package, ready to be fixed on the outside.

N.B.—Specimens of disease and calculi which have been exhibited at former meetings cannot be received on this occasion.

Communications to be addressed to CHARLES FIRTH, Esq., St. Giles' Street, Norwich, the Secretary for the Museum Department.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE annual meeting will be held in the Town Hall, Blackburn, on Wednesday, June 17th, at 1 P.M.—CHARLES WHITE, Esq., President; JOHN SKAIFE, Esq., President-elect.

The following papers have been promised.

1. Remarks on Pleuritic Effusions, and their Treatment. By Dr. Waters (Liverpool).

2. On the Treatment of the Bites of Dogs by Lunar Caustic, as being unsound in theory, injurious and unsuccessful in practice. By Dr. Haddon.

3. Retropharyngeal Abscess in the Child. By Dr. Oxley.

4. Specimens of rarer forms of Contracted Pelvis. By Dr. D. Lloyd Roberts.

5. Some of the Uses of Chloral-Hydrate in Labour. By Dr. Wallace.

6. On the Action of Stimulants. By Dr. Ross.

7. Remarks on the Position of the Heart's Impulse, based upon Chest-rule Measurements made by Mr. Patchett. By Dr. Ransome.

8. On Mazoitis (apud Lactantes): its Course, Result, and Management. Also, the exhibition of various articles of interest. By Dr. Garstang, Blackburn.

9. Brain and Lung, from a case of Tubercular Meningitis. By Dr. Oxley.

10. Morbid Growths removed from the Uterus. By Dr. Steele.

The Honorary Secretary of the Branch will briefly call attention to the proposed erection of a County Convalescent Hospital with the surplus of the "Cotton Famine Relief Fund".

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

A. B. STEELE, *Honorary Secretary*.

54, Rodney Street, Liverpool, June 3rd, 1874.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham, on Tuesday, June 23rd, at 3 P.M.; when an address will be delivered by the President, W. C. GARMAN, Esq.

The annual dinner will also be held at the Midland Hotel, at 5 P.M. precisely. Dinner tickets (exclusive of wine), 7s. 6d.

T. H. BARTLETT.

BALTHAZAR W. FOSTER, M.D. } *Honorary Secretaries*.

Birmingham, May 26th, 1874.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Museum, Torquay, on Tuesday, June 23rd, at 1.30 P.M.; J. KEMPTHORNE, F.R.C.S., President; SPENCER THOMSON, M.D., President-elect.

After the meeting, a visit will be paid to Kent's Cavern, under the guidance of E. Vivian and W. Pengelly, Esqs. (Superintendents of the Exploration), who have kindly offered to accompany the party.

The dinner will be at the Torbay Hotel, at 5.30 P.M. Tickets, 7s. 6d., exclusive of wine.

The South Devon and Cornwall Railway Companies will grant (on production of dinner-ticket) return tickets at single fares.

Gentlemen intending to read papers or exhibit cases are requested to communicate at once with JOHN WOODMAN, F.R.C.S.,

Exeter, June 6th, 1874.

Honorary Secretary.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

THE thirtieth annual meeting of the South-Eastern Branch will be held in the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, on Thursday, the 25th June, at two o'clock; G. F. HODGSON, Esq., President-elect.

Dinner punctually at half-past five. Tickets, 8s. each.

Dover, June 1874.

CHARLES PARSONS, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Guildhall, in the city of Lincoln, on Thursday, June 25th.

Members wishing to read papers are requested to communicate at once with C. HARRISON, *Honorary Local Secretary*.

Lincoln, May 25th, 1874.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

AN ordinary meeting of this Branch will be held at the rooms of the Medical Society of London, on Tuesday, June 30th, at 8 P.M., when a paper will read by W. Eassie, Esq., C.E., on "Cremation in its Sanitary Aspect".

A. P. STEWART, M.D., }

ALEXANDER HENRY, M.D., } *Hon. Secs.*

London, June 4th, 1874.

NORTHERN BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held in the Town Hall, South Shields, on Tuesday, June 30th, at 1.30 P.M.: President, 1873-74, G. Y. HEATH, M.D.; President-elect, 1874-75, A. LEGAT, M.D.

The following resolution will be proposed by Dr. Eastwood:—That the title of the Branch be "The North of England Branch", in place of "The Northern Branch".

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

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, June 10th, 1874.

NORTH WALES BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Royal Oak Hotel, Bettws-y-coed, on Tuesday, July 7th, at 1 P.M.; T. EVANS JONES, Esq., President.

Luncheon will be kindly provided by the President at the Hotel, from 12 to 1 P.M.

The dinner will be ready at 4 P.M. precisely. Tickets, 10s. 6d. each, including a pint of wine.

Gentlemen who may wish to communicate papers or cases, and who intend dining, will please to give early intimation to the Secretary.

D. KENT JONES, *Honorary Secretary*.

Beaumaris, June 3rd, 1874.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: HAMPSHIRE, DORSET, SOUTH WILTSHIRE, AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

THE first annual meeting of the above Branch will be held on Thursday, July 9th, 1874, at the Pier Hotel, Southsea, at 3.30 P.M., when the President, Inspector-General SMART, M.D., C.B., will deliver an address.

The business of the meeting will be to receive the report of the Provisional Council, to elect the officers of the Branch, and the representatives to the General Council for the ensuing year.

The dinner will take place punctually at a quarter past six. Tickets, 10s. each. (Wines at moderate charges.)

The Dinner Committee particularly request that those members who intend to be present at the dinner will send in their names before Saturday, July 4th, in order that the necessary arrangements may be completed.

J. WARD COUSINS, *Hon. Sec.*

Southsea, June 11th, 1874.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE sixth ordinary meeting of this Branch was held at the College Green Hotel, Bristol, on May 28th, at 7 P.M.; Dr. E. L. Fox, President, in the Chair. There were present thirty-six members and two visitors.

Communications.—I. Mr. ORMEROD read a case of Gall-Stone.

2. Mr. BOARD read a case of Imperforate Anus successfully treated, and Messrs. Fowler, Collins, and Lansdown made some remarks.

3. Dr. INMAN gave an address on Malaria. A very interesting discussion ensued, in which Drs. E. L. Fox, Brittan, and Messrs. D. Davies and Stone took part. Valuable experience gained in foreign countries was also given by Drs. Fyffe and J. Caddy, R.N., and Mr. T. H. Taylor, R.N.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch was held in the Corn Exchange, St. Ives, on Wednesday, May 27th, under the presidency of W. R. GROVE, M.D. There were twenty members present and a few visitors.

Previously to the meeting, the members were entertained at an elegant luncheon by the Chairman.

THE PRESIDENT read a short and very interesting introductory address, giving a sketch of the history of St. Ives.

New Members.—The following new members were elected:—T. H. Garland, L.R.C.P. Ed., and Henry F. L. White, L.K.Q.C.P. Ireland.

Next Place of Meeting.—It was resolved to hold the next annual meeting at Cambridge in June 1875, in conjunction with the East Anglian and South Midland Branches, and under the presidency of Professor Humphry, M.D., F.R.S.

Representatives in the General Council.—The following gentlemen were re-elected:—D. B. Balding, Esq.; W. R. Grove, M.D.; and G. M. Humphry, M.D., F.R.S. Job Watson, Esq., was elected the representative of the Branch on the Parliamentary Bills Committee.

Papers.—The following papers were read. 1. By J. M. WILSON, M.B., on Enteric Fever, more particularly its origin. This was an able and very interesting paper, and provoked a long discussion, in which Messrs. Watson, Anningson, Roper, Ennals, Garland, Balding, Beckett, and Drs. Latham, Bradbury, and Sergeant took part.

2. By H. F. BANHAM, Esq., M.A., on the Influence of Alcohol on the Temperature of the Body in Health and Disease.

For want of time, a paper by J. B. BRADBURY, M.D., entitled Practical Remarks on the Treatment of Heart-Disease, was not read.

THE PRESIDENT exhibited a specimen of Hydatidiform Mole; and B. ANNINGSON, M.A., M.B., two specimens of Spina Bifida.

Dinner.—The dinner took place at the Lion Hotel; the President in the chair, and Dr. Bradbury acting as vice-chairman. About twenty-five sat down to dinner, the Vicar of St. Ives being among the visitors.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT MEETING.

THE fifty-second annual meeting was held at Canterbury on Thursday, May 28th; H. G. SADLER, Esq., in the chair. Twenty-five members and their friends were present.

Business.—Mr. Thurston was thanked for his services, and unanimously re-elected to the office of Honorary Secretary.

The Places of Meeting for the ensuing year were fixed for Ramsgate in September, Canterbury in November and May, and Dover in March. Mr. Thomson was elected chairman of the Ramsgate meeting.

Communications.—I. Mr. LONG read a case of General Paralysis after Injury to the Head. This was an interesting case where the four extremities were gradually affected, till paralysis became complete; they ultimately entirely recovered their power in reverse order to that in which they were attacked. The treatment consisted of mercury carried on till the system was affected, combined with blistering at the back of the neck and purging.

2. Dr. BRAXTON HICKS brought forward a method of Paracentesis Abdominis in Ascites complicated by Tympanites or a Tumour. It consisted in carrying the usual incision down to the peritoneum and just puncturing it, when a female catheter or a similar instrument might be pushed through the small opening and the fluid drawn off. By this method all chance of injury to the bowel or tumour by the ordinary trocar would be avoided.

3. Dr. BRAXTON HICKS read an interesting and valuable paper on the Local Treatment of Cystitis in Women.

4. Mr. RIGDEN again introduced the subject of the use of the Obstetric Forceps in some cases in which they are not considered absolutely necessary, and brought forward the following statistics to prove the value of their use. He divided a practice of thirty-seven years into two divisions: in the first, extending over twenty-two years, he attended 2,365 cases; in the second, extending over fifteen years, 2,395. In the former, he entertained a prejudice against the use of the forceps, and they were used only fifteen times, or once in 150 cases; in the latter, he used them 156 times, or once in 16; in the former, there were 118 stillborn children, or 5 per cent., in the latter, 95, or 4 per cent.; in the former, 5 maternal deaths, in the latter, 4. The 15 forceps cases in the first division resulted in 13 stillborn children, principally due to delay; the 156 cases in the second division resulted in only three stillborn children, one of which was hydrocephalic. One of the maternal deaths in the first division was a forceps case; no maternal death occurred in the second division in the forceps cases. Mr. Rigden also considered his freedom from serious *post partum* hæmorrhage during the last fifteen years to be, to a great extent, due to the timely use of the forceps. He did not contend but that some, probably several, of the 156 cases would have terminated safely by the natural efforts; but why should a mother suffer prolonged agony, when she might be safely delivered in comparatively a short time?

Dinner.—The members afterwards dined together at the Fleur-de-lis.

The Next Meeting will be held at Ramsgate on September 24th.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT MEETING.

THE fourth meeting of the seventeenth session, 1873-4, was held at Gravesend on May 29th; ALFRED SHEWEN, M.D. Lond., in the chair.

Secretary.—Dr. F. J. Brown was re-elected Honorary Secretary.

Next Place of Meeting.—It was decided to hold the next meeting at Rochester, in September or October; Adam Rae Martin, Esq., to occupy the chair.

New Member.—Francis McEvoy, Esq., of Devonshire Villas, Bexley Heath, was elected.

Communications.—I. A discussion on the use of Perchloride of Iron in *Post Partum* Hæmorrhage.

2. Mr. C. J. W. PINCHING read a Case of Empyema opening into the bronchial tubes, with pointing externally. The abscess was lanced, with recovery.—Paracentesis thoracis was warmly advocated by Mr. J. M. Burton as the proper mode of treating empyema, and cases favourable to this view were narrated by Mr. Charles J. Pinching and by Dr. Burns.

3. A Case of Hydatidiform Mole was related by ALFRED SHEWEN, M.D.—In the discussion on this paper, it was stated by Dr. Armstrong that, in his own experience, the subjects of this disease never subsequently gave birth to live children.—Dr. Crook, however, gave testimony conversely.

4. Mr. J. CHRISTOPHER ARMSTRONG exhibited a Monster, wanting the greater portion of the head.

Dinner.—The members and visitors dined at the Old Falcon Inn.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SUSSEX DISTRICT.

A MEETING of the above district was held at the Castle Hotel, Hastings, on Wednesday, May 27th; Dr. HALL of St. Leonard's was nominated to fill the chair, in the absence of Dr. Turner through severe illness.

Communications.—I. Mr. PENHALL of St. Leonard's showed an Arm which he had Amputated at the middle of the humerus on account of a very large Tumour of the Forearm. It consisted of a large blood-cyst containing some two pints of blood, and having in its walls fatty looking patches presenting in the fresh state the characters of round-celled sarcoma, but no stroma could be recognised. The ulna below the coronoid process was stripped of periosteum, roughened, and excavated. It was believed that the blood came from the medullary cavity, distending and forming a sac from the muscles. The subject of the case was a sallow cachectic middle-aged man. The swelling was of about three months' date when first seen. At the end of a week, it was about the size of a flattened hen's egg. It had been tapped by the aspirator, only dark blood being drawn off. There was no definite history of strain or injury, but the man's occupation was to draw a heavy hand-cart. Pulsation was perfect in both vessels at the wrist.

2. Mr. PENHALL made some practical remarks on the use of the Plaster Splint, describing minutely the mode of application of the plaster of Paris and the bandages, and illustrating its use by the history of several cases, comprising simple, compound, and comminuted fractures

sprains, diseases of joints in children, with cases of advanced disease of ankle-joint in a case of phthisis, treated by the fenestrated plaster splint, with the effect of giving great relief to all the painful symptoms.

3. Mr. PENHALL brought forward a young woman in whom he had performed Resection of both Elbow-joints to remedy Ankylosis, the result of Acute Rheumatism. The resections were performed at an interval of five months, and resulted in signal benefit. A considerable amount of movement being restored. On the last occasion, the wound united by first intention.

4. Mr. E. SMITH of Battle read the following case, illustrating the use of the Cold Bath in Typhoid Fever. C. F., aged 7, had a severe attack of typhoid. The temperature ranged from 103.5 deg. in the morning to 105 deg. in the evening. On the morning of the twenty-second day, she became unconscious; temperature, 106 deg.; pulse, over 200, and respirations 72 per minute. She was put into a full length bath at 85 deg., and the water was allowed to cool gradually. She remained in the bath twenty-five minutes. The temperature in the rectum had then fallen to 102.6. Consciousness soon returned. In the evening, the temperature in the axilla was 103 deg.; but next morning it was normal, and from that time her recovery was steady.

5. Dr. BAGSHAWE of St. Leonard's brought forward a patient, married, but childless, who was attacked with Peritoneal Cellulitis and Ovaritis, two years and a half previously. An enormous abscess formed, which, at the end of four months, opened at the umbilicus. In January of the present year, for the first time, the discharge became bloody, and continued so for four days, accompanied by the usual pains of menstruation. Each month since that time the discharge has contained more or less blood. She had not menstruated *per vaginam* since her first seizure.

Dinner.—The members and their friends subsequently dined together at the Castle, under the presidency of Dr. Hall.

New Member.—Dr. David Davis of St. Leonard's was nominated as a member of the Association and of this Branch.

The Next Meeting is to be held at Uckfield, in the month of September. Mr. Henry Holman, sen., of East Hoathly, to be invited to take the chair.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DISINFECTION BY HEAT.

SIR,—In the recently published *Manual of Public Health*, edited by Mr. Ernest Hart, is a chapter on disinfection, upon which I ask you to insert the following comments.

At page 369, the writer says: "Given a bundle of clothes from a small-pox patient, there is only one safe and practicable course to be taken, that is, to burn it. We might, it is true, destroy it with corrosive chemicals, but that would only be a more difficult and a more costly way of destroying it; and unless we pushed the action of the chemicals, so far as to destroy the fibre of the fabric, we could have no security."

At page 370, again, he says: "All clothes which are tainted with the specific infecting matters, such as the matter from small-pox, scarlet fever, etc., ought to be burnt. When plague breaks out in a crowded part of a town, there is much to be said in favour of burning down the houses where it has been rife."

"Failing so extreme a measure (which, however, he would most seriously commend to the attention of the authorities of a plague-stricken town), they should be for a while dismantled, and freely exposed to the rain and to the wind."

Again, on the same page, he said: "In place of burning clothes and bedding, there is a custom of baking them; and the practice is defended on the ground that the small-pox poison is destroyed by a heat approaching to the boiling point of water. Granting, however, that the subjection of the poison to such a temperature will destroy it, there is always room for very reasonable doubts whether a mass of bedding, for instance, is raised throughout its entire substance to the required temperature; and, in the present state of our knowledge on the subject, we should discourage the substitution of baking for burning outright."

The *Manual of Public Health* is intended as a guide to practical men, and there can be little doubt that, seeing the reputation of the authors, it will be much read, and its teachings relied upon by many Medical Officers of Health, and by some lay members of the Board of Health.

What will be the practical effect of its teaching? It will result in nothing being done, except to destroy; and this means, that only such things as are almost valueless will be destroyed, and the bulk of infected materials will remain untouched. Who does not know the care-

ful economy, at least in these matters, of boards elected by the rate-payers, the majority of whom are needy? Who expects that the infected bedding and clothing of the retail traders, or of more wealthy people, will be burned at their own cost? The value of these things is very often large in proportion to the wealth of the owners. I venture to say that, unless under the influence of panic, nothing will be burned, either at the cost of the owner or of the Sanitary Authority, except almost worthless articles.

The writer of the chapter on disinfection not only recommends a proceeding which cannot, in practice, be followed upon a scale sufficiently large to do much good, but so depreciates all other recognised methods of disinfecting, as to afford an apparent justification for the inaction of the Local Boards of Health.

Yet there is one method of disinfecting clothes and bedding, viz., that, by heat, of which even he does not venture to deny the efficiency, although he throws doubt upon the efficiency of the practical methods by which it is applied, saying, "there is always room for very reasonable doubt whether a mass of bedding, for instance, is raised throughout its entire substance to the required temperature". In reply to this assertion, I beg to state that, in a disinfecting stove now at work at the General Hospital in this town, there is no reasonable ground for doubting that the required temperature penetrates to the centre of a bed in about eight hours. There are, in short, no sufficient grounds for so depreciating this mode of disinfecting. The mechanical arrangements are simple and satisfactory, are automatic, are not costly, and present a reasonable amount of certainty that the object sought to be attained is really reached.

If by disinfection we mean, as practical medical men should do, the rendering harmless such things as were previously potent for the spreading of infectious diseases, we must absolutely separate the idea of disinfection from that of antiseptic action. We should follow in the steps of the late Dr. Henry of Manchester, and ascertain what are the conditions which render inert the infecting agent. From him we know that clothing, infected with scarlet fever virus, heated in dry air to a temperature of about 205 deg. Fahr. for one hour becomes harmless, that vaccine virus heated to 140 Fahr. loses its activity, and that to make heat penetrate we want time. We have, unfortunately, but few experiments and observations of a similar kind to those made by Dr. Henry, but there are analogous arguments sufficient to convince us that heat may be tried as a disinfectant, with great probability of its succeeding.

Experiments as to the effect of heat upon the virus of the infectious diseases of animals would be of value by increasing the importance of the argument from analogy, and it is much to be regretted that such an inquiry has not long since been set on foot by the Medical Department of the Privy Council.

The writer of the chapter here under discussion appears to have had in view something more than mere disinfection, as here defined and limited, and to have seen the question mainly from the chemist's point of view. The outcome of his reasoning appears to be that, in order to disinfect you must destroy, that is, resolve into stable, simple, binary compounds, the unstable, complex, organic bodies, supposed to be the infecting agents, and with them everything with which they had been recently in connection.

It is to be hoped that some intermediate course may be found, and that no acts of Parliament will be passed which are conceived in this spirit. I, at least, do not doubt that a careful study of this question of experiment upon the lower animals, will help us to means of rendering harmless the infected clothing and bedding from all the known infectious maladies with as much certainty as now, in my opinion, heat may be applied to disinfect the clothing and bedding from small-pox and scarlet fever patients.

One more quotation, and I have done. The writer says (see p. 371), "There is perhaps no other subject which has been so overlaid with absurdities and deformities." I can cordially assent to this statement of opinion.

The above comments had been drafted some weeks ago, but had been laid aside uncorrected in consequence of the pressure of other avocations, when my attention was called to the fact that the present Government has proposed to give to the metropolitan sanitary authorities power to order the destruction of infected clothing and to give compensation. This is not very alarming. The same power has long been enjoyed by less august bodies, and has not been largely exercised, for reasons which do not need to be restated. It would be a more hopeful sign were the local boards of health to turn their attention to disinfection without destruction, both because it would be cheaper and more widely beneficial. There is, however, but little ground for expectation that those bodies will move in this matter with the vigour which it requires, although I entertain a strong conviction that a long continued habitual

12th, 1874. Although Dr. Fox was not known as a medical writer, he was a gentleman of great powers of observation; and his accumulated experience, gentle kindly ways, and unvarying urbanity to his colleagues and those of his brethren who met him in consultation, endeared him to a large circle of patients and friends. He held the appointments of Consulting Physician to the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, to St. Elizabeth Hospital, to the Jews' Hospital, the Tower Hamlets Dispensary, and the Metropolitan Assurance Company. He was much sought after by members of the Jewish faith, by whom he was greatly esteemed; and in his own (the Roman Catholic) church, he was held in such high regard, that of their own accord he was buried by his clergy with all the honours of a pontifical high mass of requiem.

JOHN AUGUSTUS LLOYD, M.D., BATH.

THE death of Dr. J. A. Lloyd took place at his residence, Bennett Street, Bath, on April 29th, after a protracted illness. He was the second son of the late Lieut.-Colonel Herbert Lloyd of Chelsea. He established himself as a medical practitioner in Bath more than forty years since, having passed his examination at the College of Surgeons in the year 1829. In 1854, he took his degree of M.D. at Aberdeen; he was also F.R.C.S. Eng., and at various times held medical appointments. He was Physician to the Institution for Diseases of the Chest, Cancer, etc., in Bath. In 1870, he was appointed upon the Commission of the Peace for the city and borough of Bath.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following members of the College, having undergone the necessary examinations for the Fellowship at meetings on the 28th, 29th, and 30th ultimo, were reported to have acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of the Court of Examiners, and, at a meeting of the Council on the 11th instant, were admitted Fellows of the College.

Adams, Josiah Oake, L.S.A., Clapton: diploma of membership dated April 26th, 1865.

Bird, Cuthbert Hilton Golding, M.B. and B.A. Lond., and L.R.C.P. Lond., Elgin Crescent, Kensington: April 16th, 1872.

Cant, William Edmund, L.R.C.P. Lond., Colchester: May 9th, 1867.

Rose, William, L.S.A., High Wycombe: April 18th, 1871.

Smith, George Francis Kirby, L.S.A., Northampton: July 22nd, 1872.

Yate, Edward, M.B. Lond., Godalming: November 16th, 1871.

Out of the nineteen candidates examined, one retired, and twelve having failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Court, were referred to their professional studies for one year.

ERRATUM.—In the lists of gentlemen who recently passed the Fellowship Examination of the Royal College of Surgeons, given in the JOURNAL of May 30th, p. 729, Halsham, William Johnson, should be Walsham, William Johnson.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, June 4th, 1874.

Cree, William Edward, St. John's Park, Upper Holloway

Rees, Charles, Cape Town

Rygate, Brougham Robert, St. George's East

Stevens, Alfred Felix, Stoke Newington Green

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

Bedolfe, Peyton Davenport, St. Thomas's Hospital

Sykes, John Frederick Joshua, Guy's Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

ALNWICK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT—Medical Officer of Health: £80 for twelve months.

ANDERSON UNIVERSITY, Glasgow—Professor of the Practice of Medicine; Professor of Anatomy.

ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT—Surgeons. Applications, 10th August, to Sir W. M. Muir, Director-General.

ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS, Earlswood—Assistant Medical Officer: £150 per annum, board, and apartments. Applications, 29th instant, to the Secretary, 36, King William Street.

BANBURY URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT—Medical Officer of Health for three years. Applications, 15th instant, to Thomas Pain, Clerk.

BARONY PARISH NEW LUNATIC FARM ASYLUM, Woodlie, Glasgow—Medical Superintendent: £500 per annum, house, etc. Applications, 1st July, to Peter Beattie, Inspector of Poor.

BEAUMARIS URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT—Medical Officer of Health: Applications, 15th instant, to the Town Clerk.

BIRKENHEAD LADIES' CHARITABLE INSTITUTION and LYING-IN HOSPITAL—Medical Officer.

BIRKENHEAD UNION—Medical Officer for District No. 2, and the Workhouse: £170 per annum.

BRIGHTON, Parish of—Medical Officers for the Eastern and Central Districts; £125 per annum each.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE PROVIDENT DISPENSARY—Acting Medical Officer.

CHARD UNION, Somersetshire—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for No. 1 District; and the Workhouse: £68:3:4 per annum, and fees. Applications, 15th instant, to T. B. Gould, Clerk.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL—Assistant Physician. Applications, 23rd inst., to Henry Woolcott, Secretary.

ENNISCORTHY UNION, co. Wexford—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Ferns Dispensary District: £90 per annum, and fees. Applications, 24th instant, to Richard Dockrill, Honorary Secretary, Bannview, Camolin.

FISHERTON HOUSE ASYLUM, Salisbury—Assistant Medical Officer. Applications to Dr. Finch.

GALWAY UNION—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Spiddal Dispensary District: £100 per annum, and fees. Applications, 15th instant, to George Morris, Honorary Secretary, Wellpark, Galway.

GENERAL HOSPITAL, Birmingham—Resident Surgical Officer: £100 per annum, board, and residence. Applications, 29th instant, to W. T. Grant, House Governor.

GLAMORGANSHIRE AND MONMOUTHSHIRE INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY, Cardiff—House-Surgeon and Secretary: £100 a year, board, washing, and furnished apartments. Applications, 20th inst., to the Committee.

GREENOCK AMALGAMATED FRIENDLY SOCIETIES MEDICAL ASSOCIATION—Medical Officer. Applications, 25th instant, to John White, 1, Bellville Street, Greenock.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE—Fourteen Surgeons. Applications, to T. P. Pears, Major-General, Military Secretary.

INFIRMARY FOR CONSUMPTION, etc., Margaret Street—Visiting Physician. Applications, 16th instant, to Francis Baily, Secretary.

NORTHAMPTON GENERAL INFIRMARY—Physician. Applications, 1st July, to S. P. Bennett, Secretary.

OLDCASTLE UNION, co. Meath—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Crossakeel Dispensary District: £100 per annum, and fees. Applications, 16th instant, to M. T. Rotherham, Belview, Crossakeel.

PONTEFRAC RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT—Medical Officer of Health for the No. 2 Subdistrict: £50 per annum.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, Ireland—Two Examiners in General Education.

ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, City Road—Physician. Applications, 14th July, to C. L. Kemp, Secretary.

ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE—Surgeons. Applications, 6th August, to A. Armstrong, Director-General.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL—Resident Medical Officer: £250 per annum, increasing to £300, furnished rooms, and board. Applications, 30th instant, to C. L. Todd, Secretary.

ST. PANCRAS and NORTHERN DISPENSARY—Resident Medical Officer: £100 per annum, residence, and allowance for servant. Applications to S. S. Wigg, Honorary Secretary, 33, Gordon Street, Gordon Square.

SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL, Greenwich—House-Surgeon: £100 per annum, and furnished rooms. Applications, 23rd instant, to Kembal Cook, House Governor and Secretary.

STOURBRIDGE DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon and Secretary: £120 per annum, with furnished rooms, coals, and gas, and occasional extras. Applications to J. B. Shepherd, Esq., Honorary Secretary, at the Dispensary.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—Lecturer on Physiology. Applications, 16th instant, to the Secretary.

WELLINGBOROUGH—Certifying Factory Surgeon.

WELLINGBOROUGH UNION—Medical Officer for the Earl's Barton District: £40 per annum.

WEST BROMWICH DISTRICT HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon: £80 per ann., board, residence, etc. Applications, 15th instant, to F. D. Bennett, Hon. Sec.

WESTERN INFIRMARY, Glasgow—Superintendent: £250 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications, 15th instant, to W. H. Hill, Honorary Secretary, 106, Ingram Street, Glasgow.

WHITWOOD URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT—Medical Officer of Health: £15 per annum.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENT.

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

SINCLAIR, Alexander J., M.D., appointed Physician to the Royal Dispensary, Edinburgh.

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.

MARRIAGE.

PAGE—CAPNER.—On June 3rd, at the Parish Church, Handsworth, Staffordshire, by the Rev. W. Randall, M.A., Rector, assisted by the Rev. J. B. George (brother-in-law of the bride) and the Rev. E. S. Page, B.A. (cousin of the bridegroom), Herbert Markant Page, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. Lond., of Redditch, Worcestershire, to Mary Morgan, youngest daughter of the late William Capner, Esq., of Lozells Villa, Lozells, Birmingham. No cards.

DEATHS.

*BIRD, James, Esq., at 80, Seymour Street, Connaught Square, aged 72, on June 6th.

*GOODWORTH, W. H., Esq., Surgeon, at Hatfield, Yorkshire, after a long and painful illness, aged 66, on June 5th.

LOCK, William, Esq., of Lansdowne House, Tenby, South Wales, Solicitor, aged 77, at Broad Walk, Buxton, on May 26th.

*RYAN, William Burke, M.D., F.R.C.S., of Bayswater, at New Ross, Ireland, after a few days' illness, aged 64, on June 4th. R. I. P.

WEBB, Henry J., Esq., Surgeon, at Bank Street, Cheadle, Staffordshire, aged 46, on May 25th.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAYMetropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 9 A.M. and 2 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.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—West London, 3 P.M.—National Orthopaedic, 2 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.

THURSDAYSt. 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, 2 P.M.

SATURDAYSt. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 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.—Royal Free, 9 A.M. and 2 P.M.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.—We shall be much obliged to Medical Officers of Health if they will, in forwarding their Annual and other Reports, favour us with *Duplicate Copies*.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the JOURNAL, are requested to communicate beforehand with the printer and publisher, Mr. T. Richards, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C.

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

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

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.

MR. FREDERICK WALLACE (Hackney).—The matter at issue had better be referred to the Council of the Metropolitan Counties Branch.

NOTWITHSTANDING that nearly every number of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL published this year has included a supplement of eight pages, and that one-third more of original matter has been published this year in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL up to the present date than in any former year, we have still a considerable accumulation of manuscripts from town and country contributors. We would therefore especially ask our correspondents to compress, as much as possible, any communications with which they may favour us, with a view to their publication with the least possible delay.

AN APPEAL.

AN appeal is earnestly made on behalf of a medical man, Mr. S. Orby Carey, who is suffering from paralysis. Obligated, after years of laborious work in South Australia, to give up his practice ere he could make provision for a time of need, and return to England for treatment, he now lies in humble lodgings, suffering much both mentally and physically, and wholly dependent on charity. He has no relatives able to assist him, or even to offer him a home, and, from years of absence, but few friends. His family—a wife and three children—are temporarily provided for; he therefore only asks that assistance may be given that he may be enabled to continue treatment.

This further appeal is made with the desire that he may be able to decide whether he can arrange for another year's treatment: failing which, he will be obliged to accept an offer now made of a free passage back to the colony, when he feels all chance of recovery would be lost, and no ultimate prospect remain but that of ending his days in the destitute asylum there.

Reference permitted to B. E. Brodhurst, F.R.C.S., 20, Grosvenor Street, W., and to F. J. Toulmin, F.R.C.S., 36, Thurlow Square, S.W.; and subscriptions received by Calvert Toulmin, Esq., 69, Inverness Terrace, Hyde Park, W.; Dr. Gelston, Limerick; Dr. Hobart, Cork; or by Mr. Carey himself, 12, Sheldon Street, Paddington, W.

Amounts already Received.

| | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|-----|----|---|
| British Medical Benevolent Fund.. | .. | .. | .. | £20 | 0 | 0 |
| Irish | .. | .. | .. | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Anonymously and otherwise (acknowledged) | .. | .. | .. | 17 | 17 | 0 |

QUININE PILLS.

SIR,—I find that some pills supplied to me as "one-grain quinine" do not give any precipitate upon adding excess of liquor potassæ to a filtered solution, obtained by triturating the pills in a small mortar with water, acidulated with sulphuric acid. May I ask, if quinine existed in the pills, whether it would not be precipitated under the circumstances?

I am, etc.,

WALTER LATTEY, L.R.C.P. Lond., etc.

* * A solution such as is here described ought to give a precipitate of quinine on the addition of potash solution in excess, provided the solution be not too dilute, for it must be remembered that quinine is soluble in about 500 parts of water. The determination of quinine is a matter requiring considerable manipulative skill.

NOTICES of Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Appointments, intended for insertion in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, should arrive at the Office not later than 10 A.M. on Thursday.

MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Bona Fides", writing upon the case of Mr. H. L. Heath, as stated by Mr. G. R. Thomas of Midhurst, asks what is the law upon the relation between a principal and a *locum tenens*. So far as the law is concerned, there is nothing to prevent an assistant or *locum tenens* from practising in the locality where he has been engaged, unless there be a special contract to the contrary. In the case of an assistant, I always recommend a prohibitory agreement, which is adapted to the special circumstances. In the case of a *locum tenens*, the circumstances are somewhat different, and what would be considered reasonable conditions in the former, would not be held to be legal in the latter instance. To meet this requirement, all the gentlemen who form my *locum tenens* "staff" sign a contract-book with me, each on a separate stamp, and by this prohibit themselves, under damages of £50 a month, from opposing those who engage their services, so that any gentleman engaging a *locum tenens* through my agency has the guarantee which your correspondent considers necessary.

With reference to Mr. Heath himself, I beg to state that, as soon as I heard what he proposed to do, I wrote and explained to him the gravity of the mistake he would commit if he commenced practice amongst the patients to whom he had been introduced as an assistant. A subsequent interview with Mr. Heath satisfied me that he had acted in error, through inexperience; and he himself, being then convinced that he was wrong, promptly and in the most honourable manner agreed to withdraw from Midhurst immediately, and in the most public way possible to announce his withdrawal. I believe that every man of good feeling will consider that Mr. Heath in thus acting has made amends for his error.

I am, etc.,

J. BAXTER LANGLEY.

50, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C., June 5th, 1874.

DR. DOBELL'S PARTY.

WE had occasion recently to express objection to the issue of cards to a *soirée* at the house of a medical man at Birmingham, to which reporters of the medical press were invited. The feeling of the medical profession was unmistakably in accordance with our objection to converting a private entertainment into an occasion for press notices. We regret to see that, on the occasion of a party at the house of a London physician last week, a breach of professional propriety has been perpetrated by the introduction into two journals—the *Pharmaceutical* and the *Medical Press and Circular*—of long notices of the instruments shown, etc. We expect and believe that Dr. Dobell is not a party to this proceeding, which calls for energetic protest on the part of those who wish to retain a due standard of professional decorum. *Soirées* at the societies and public institutions are fit subjects for press notice—the private entertainments of a physician at his private house are not. And it must be hoped that Dr. Dobell will be able to state that he did not intend or expect that any such breach of professional propriety should occur in connection with the party at his house, and that he disapproves of it.

ERRATUM.—In the last line but one of Mr. L. Kesteven's paper on *Hæmatoma Auris* (JOURNAL, June 6, page 742, col. 2), read, "as there was no history".

ETIQUETTE AT THE BRIDGNORTH UNION WORKHOUSE.

SIR,—There is an old saying, "All on one side, like Bridgnorth election": and the case referred to, at page 700 of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, bears this out once more. Dr. Roe, medical officer of that workhouse, considers that he has a grievance, when the medical officer of one of the districts outside comes into the workhouse premises and signs a certificate concerning a lunatic inmate which the latter had thought proper to allow to leave the district for safer care of the workhouse. Mr. Reynolds, Clerk of the Board of Guardians, *ex cathedra*, says that he has not, and comes to the defence of the other party instead of expounding the law. This question, which has been raised by Dr. Roe, is one of great importance to medical officers of workhouses, and cannot be settled by special pleading, or excuses of convenience or expediency. In the first place, it was irregular for the lunatic to be removed to the workhouse for examination. The proper place is the police-office; and, if he be not able to be removed, then at the patient's house. In the present instance the lunatic was taken to the union, and from the moment that he was lodged there became, *ipso facto*, a person under the care and treatment of Dr. Roe, whose opinion ought to have been taken; and had he declared that the patient was not in a fit state to be removed, or not a proper person requiring the restraint of an asylum, a complete stopper might have been put upon the whole proceeding. Mr. Reynolds' declaration, that it was more convenient for the magistrate to sign at the workhouse, is unsatisfactory. It forms a precedent, and has the tendency to lead outsiders to consider ordinary cases of lunacy as something to be dealt with by personal predilections instead of by rule. Mr. Bethell ought to have certified to his patient outside. The case has been decided to the prejudice of the medical officer of the workhouse. It will crop up again elsewhere. The officer of the workhouse is the proper person to originate all proceedings relative to pauper lunatics without reference to any previous medical attendant, and is the sole person responsible when once the pauper has been admitted. Thanks are due to Dr. Roe for defending his position.

I am, etc.,

AMICUS CURLE.

Bridgnorth, May 26th, 1874.

A SATISFACTORY MEETING.

THE *St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal* says: "The Linton District Medical Society convened according to notice on the 7th of April, at Louisiana. There was a large attendance of earnest, sensible men. Neither egotism, pomposity, nor toadyism; no medical ethics, no fee bills, no medical education hobbies, no constitutional amendments or bye-laws, to waste time in discussing; no rings, cliques, or schools, to push this or that man's preferment. But one spirit seemed to animate the assembly, and that was their mutual improvement in medical science. It is truly a rest to attend such a meeting. The plan adopted by this Society, of visiting each of the counties in the district *seriatim*, is admirably calculated to promote a revival of interest in the discussion of medical subjects, and the result is, that many men join the Society and become working contributors, thereby attaining higher culture in the profession themselves, while they add something to the general stock of medical knowledge."

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements for insertion in the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL**, should be forwarded direct to the Printing Office, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C., addressed to Mr. FOWKE, not later than *Thursday*, twelve o'clock.

THE LATE DR. F. C. WEBB.

SIR,—I hope you will allow me a space in your columns to very sincerely thank you, and all those who have so kindly and so effectively helped to secure the election of my son Hugh C. Webb to a foundation scholarship of the Royal Epsom College. It is a great gain to him to have thus been successful in his first application, and to us to have been spared the delay, anxiety, and expense of a longer canvass. I am very grateful for this, as also for many other proofs of the high regard and esteem in which my dear husband was held.

22, Woburn Place, June 6th, 1874.

I am, etc.,
SARAH S. WEBB.

THE HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.

AN advertisement which appears in to-day's *Times* requires some explanation. "*The Hospital for Women, Soho Square*."—The Committee have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of ten guineas from a Grateful Patient, who, having recently derived great benefit from treatment at the hospital, desires to assist in extending similar benefits to others by contributing towards the heavy expenditure of the charity.—EDWARD D. STEAD, Secretary.—June 6th, 1874.

May I ask how it is that the Hospital for Women affords relief to patients who can pay their ten guineas to its funds. Is it an arrangement between the Committee and the patient, by which the medical officers of the hospital are cheated of their services? Such an arrangement was recently very commonly entered into at one of our ophthalmic hospitals, until the medical staff protested against it. I hope the secretary of the Women's Hospital will be able to offer some explanation, as on the face of it there seems to be a flagrant abuse of charity.

I am quite unconnected with the hospital in question, and, therefore, can have no motive in calling attention to this matter, beyond the desire to remove, if possible, the abuses of hospitals, that seem to be at present as rife as ever in certain quarters.

I am, etc., W. SPENCER WATSON.

Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, June 6th, 1874.

GENERAL PARALYSIS AND FRAGILITAS OSSIUM.

SIR,—In the *JOURNAL* of April 25th is a report, by Dr. Mercer of the East Riding Asylum, of a case of partial fragilitas ossium in a patient the subject of general paralysis. The existence, in not a few instances of the general paralysis of the insane, of a brittle condition of the bones, is truly pretty well known. The fact is, as Dr. Mercer implies, of much importance in a medico-legal point of view; but the fact, it is well to bear in mind, has been, and is to this hour, to a large extent, ignored, with the view of fastening the charge of violence and cruelty on attendants on the insane inmates of both public and private asylums. In the cause of justice, as well as in the interests of medical science, will you allow me to add that so long ago as 1842, at which time I was the medical superintendent of the female department of the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum, I contributed to the *Medical Times* (No. 170, vol. vii, pp. 195 and 197) a highly interesting example of the same morbid condition of parts of the skeleton as that put now on record by Dr. Mercer in an imbecile patient, an inmate of the said asylum. Not only, but six spontaneous fractures of the long bones were found on dissection—viz., two of the left femur, one of the right femur, one of the left clavicle, one of the left humerus, and one of the right radius! The dark red spongy material, or the oleosanguineous fluid, named by Dr. Mercer as seen in the broken sternum of his patient, was also present in my own case. Such was described by me as entering into the formation of certain of the bones, and possessing the colour and consistence of black currant jelly. Furthermore, the brittle exterior periosteal shell found in the sixth rib in Dr. Mercer's patient belonged also to my own case, and is alluded to in these words—viz., "By embracing portions of certain of the long bones between the finger and thumb, such yielded easily to the pressure, so very thin and brittle were they, imparting the sensation of breaking a soft-shelled walnut." It was the occurrence of the above case of mental disease, so strangely complicated with fragilitas ossium, that prompted me to look in the dead-house of the asylum for the conjunction of abnormal conditions of the brain (insanity) with such of the skeleton. At page 265 of *The Ganglionic Nervous System*, published by me in 1858, and this at a period much anterior to the time when the "asylum catastrophes", or the sensational and garbled accounts of the same, alluded to by Dr. Mercer, were pressed on the attention of the profession and the public, it is recorded, as the result of such investigation, that osteomalacia, as complicated with insanity, or, to write more closely to the point, with general paralysis, was detected, in 1843 and 1844, on five or six different occasions. The pathological inferences to be drawn from this circumstance are, doubtless, of much importance, and these I have discussed at some length in the book named, from p. 260 to p. 265 inclusive.

That younger inquirers after truth have, within these few years, confirmed my experience of thirty years ago, is in no small degree satisfactory.

I am, etc., JAS. GEO. DAVEY, M.D., M.R.C.P.
Northwoods, near Bristol, May 3rd, 1874.

DOES SYPHILIS DESCEND TO THE GRANDCHILDREN?

SIR,—I should gladly know the experience of medical men as to whether men or women affected with inherited syphilis are likely to propagate syphilitic offspring. My own slight experience leads me to say not. The following case, for instance, is an example of non-transmission. I have had others.

Maria C., aged 25, was seen by me on the 20th April, 1874, having been a patient of mine at the Metropolitan Free Hospital for several years. She was a most typical case of inherited syphilis, having the central upper incisor teeth convergent, pegged, and notched, with scars around the mouth, as well as marks of extensive interstitial cornetitis of both eyes. The poor young woman also suffered from an abscess of the lacrymal sac, for which she was most skillfully treated by Mr. Couper, at the Moorfields Eye Hospital. The patient married four years ago, and, a year after this, gave birth to a child, which was born quite healthy, but died at a month old, from a swelling on the right arm and inflammation, which spread over the body. The mother states distinctly that this infant had no eruption on any part of the body, and that it had not suffered from any snuffling or obstruction of the nostrils. "It gradually pined away." The second child was aged twelve months on the 20th April. It had been suckled by its mother, and had been well all its lifetime. It looked well nourished, and did not exhibit any symptom of specific disease.

Neither of these children, I think, were syphilitic in any way; and, as far as it goes, it seems to me that this case shows that syphilis does not descend to the grandchildren.

I am, etc., CHAS. R. DRYSDALE, M.D., M.R.C.P.L., F.R.C.S.E.

May 19th, 1874.

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* * This fund will be closed on the 27th instant.

MEDICAL PUZZLEDOM—ELATINE.

SIR,—Your correspondent, Alpha Beta, deserves the grateful thanks of the profession for his able and pungent criticism of the practice adopted by some well-meaning old ladies and gentlemen of coining outlandish or nonsensical names for the drugs which they so disinterestedly patronise. The evil is on the increase; but I see no prospect of a remedy unless medical men, as a rule, will resolve to discountenance quackery in every shape, and to prescribe no medicines except those sanctioned by the proper authorities.

This habit of manufacturing puzzling names in medicines has its comic side; and my brother Alpha will not object to my adding one more to the bewildering list which he has noticed so effectively. I had lately an opportunity of seeing a prescription (written by a physician in this city, who would appear to have rather a penchant for unlicensed nostrums) to the following effect: "R. Elatine [Jones] 3xvi; half a wineglassful three times a day." (The bracketed name represents the proprietor, at whose shop alone the article is to be had.)

Elatine! what could the word mean? At the first blush the name was suggestive of something horribly drastic. Could it be the active principle of elaterium? No; that was hardly probable, considering the heroic magnitude of the dose. Then, what could it be? My perplexity was extreme. At last I plucked up courage and wrote to the inventor, begging for information on three points—viz., 1. The composition of elatine; 2. Its therapeutical properties; and 3. *Unde derivatur?* Two of my queries were fairly answered; the third was left unanswered. Elatine was declared to be "a concentrated aqueous solution of fir tar"; in pharmacopoeial Latin, *liquor picis liquida fortis*; in plain English, *strong tar water*. (Shade of the immortal Berkeley, hear and rejoice!) As to the medicinal value of elatine, it was certified to be "a most wonderful appetiser". All this was eminently satisfactory, so far as it went; but I was as remote as ever from solving the etymological difficulty, though I was firmly resolved to master it, if possible. Suddenly it occurred to me that "elatine" had somewhat of a Greek twang about it. I flew to my Liddell and Scott, and there, to my exquisite relief, I discovered that *ἐλάτη* means "the pine", and *ἐλατίνος* "of the pine or fir". And thus the mystery attached to the pretty name "elatine" was at last cleared up. It turned out to have a real substantial classical foundation; and this is more than can be alleged in favour of chlorodyne, which, in the vernacular, can only be resolved into *green pain*.

I am, etc.,

EPSILON BETA.

Dublin, April 30th, 1874.

WE are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Birmingham Daily Gazette, June 8th; The Carlisle Patriot, June 6th; The Macclesfield Advertiser; The Shield; The Glasgow News; The Manchester Guardian; The Cork Examiner; The Hastings and St. Leonard's Chronicle; The Paris Journal; The Lancaster Daily Courier; The Leeds Weekly Express; The Liverpool Daily Courier; The Brighton Daily News; The Berkshire Chronicle; The Northwich and Winsford Guardian; The Huddersfield Weekly News; The Alston Herald; The Halifax Times; The Northampton Herald; The Kensington News; The Alnwick Mercury; The Cork Examiner; etc.

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