

large as a walnut was found in the right posterior lobe, extending backwards from the lateral ventricle into the substance of the hemisphere, and upwards to within a quarter of an inch from the surface, lying under the localised adhesions between the dura and pia mater on the superior parietal lobule, lined with a thick membrane, and containing a very small quantity of thick whitish matter. No *post mortem* examination was allowed in the second case. The patient, the subject of the first case, was a shopkeeper; the second was a medical man. Dr. Atkins, in his remarks on these cases, mentioned the apparent absence of general paralysis of the insane from the Irish asylums, but stated that it was possible that many cases did exist, presenting obscure symptoms, which led to their not being diagnosed as such.

Puerperal Scarlatina.—Dr. W. J. CUMMINS read the notes of a very interesting case of puerperal scarlatina which had occurred in his practice.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.

THE next meeting of the above Branch will be held at the London and North Western Hotel, Stafford, on Thursday, February 24th, 1876. The Chair will be taken by Dr. DAY, the President, at 2.30 P.M.

Notice of Motion.—Mr. W. D. SPANTON will propose—"That the Council of this Branch be instructed to represent to the General Council of the Association the necessity for a revision of the fees at present allowed to witnesses in Courts of Law; and, with a view to amend the same, that the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the Association be requested to bring the subject under the notice of the Government as early as possible."

The following papers have been promised.

1. Dr. B. W. RICHARDSON, F.R.S.: On Artificial Respiration in combination with Tracheotomy; with exhibition of a new instrument.

2. Dr. DAY: Observations on certain Convulsive Disorders.

Pathological specimens will be exhibited at the commencement of the meeting.

VINCENT JACKSON, Wolverhampton. } *Honorary Secretaries.*
RALPH GOODALL, Silverdale. }

Wolverhampton, February 15th, 1876.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE fourth ordinary meeting of the session will be held at the Royal Hotel, College Green, Bristol, on Thursday evening, March 3rd, at half-past Seven o'clock; W. M. CLARKE, Esq., President.

EDMUND C. BOARD, *Honorary Secretary.*

Clifton, February 14th, 1876.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

A GENERAL meeting of this Branch will be held at the rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, on Friday, March 3rd, at 8 P.M.:

To consider the practice of Advertising Medical Books in Non-professional Papers.

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

February 17th, 1876.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

VEGETABLE DIET IN TOWNS.

THE high price and inferior quality of vegetables in most towns are probably among the reasons which lead them to be too much neglected as an article of diet by dwellers in towns. It is difficult to decide to what extent this is prejudicial to the health of those who, from choice or necessity, are town residents; there can be little doubt, however, that a more liberal use of wholesome vegetables, properly cooked, would be beneficial to the health both of the upper and lower classes in towns; and would, with other sanitary reforms, lead to a reduction of that excessive mortality from scrofulous diseases which prevails in all urban populations. We learn from the *Liverpool Daily Post* that a "Dietetic Reform Association" has recently been founded in Liverpool;

and, although we have no faith in, and little sympathy with, its primary object "to supersede the use of animal food", we fully believe that there is ample field for the usefulness of such an association. If, in Liverpool, as in Manchester, "vegetarian eating houses" are started, it may be the means of promoting both an increased use of vegetables and improvement and variety in the mode of cooking them. Among the lower classes, ignorance of cooking, as well as the dearthness of vegetables, stands in the way of a sufficient use of vegetables which should form a most economical and wholesome article of diet. The middle-class workers in towns, who lead an almost entirely sedentary life, are now often driven to take a more or less heavy meat mid-day meal, from the almost impossibility of getting a well-cooked variety of vegetables such as the "Dietetic Reform Association" proposes to provide. More vegetables and less meat would be a beneficial change in the diet of most town sojourners, especially of those leading a sedentary life; this much we may fairly allow, without any belief in vegetarianism pure and simple.

THE HEALTH OF BELFAST IN 1875.

BELFAST is the second largest town in Ireland; and, at its present rate of increase, bids very fair at no distant date to be more populous than Dublin itself, the population of which is said to have remained stationary in recent years. Dr. Browne, the consulting sanitary officer of the borough, has just presented to the Town Council of Belfast his first annual report upon its sanitary statistics and condition. This report derives considerable interest from the high death-rates and high proportion of zymotic deaths in this town which were published from time to time during 1875 by the Registrar-General of Ireland. Dr. Browne naturally takes exception to the fact that in these official publications the death-rates in Belfast are calculated on the population enumerated in 1871, which was 182,082, whereas he estimates, from the number of houses built since 1871, that the present population of the borough is 205,402. This is equal to an annual rate of 2.4 per cent. of the population, which exceeds the average annual rate of increase in any of the eighteen largest English towns between 1861 and 1871 except Sheffield, Bradford, and Leicester. There appears to be some reason to suspect that the increase of population in Belfast since 1871 has, by Dr. Browne's method, been somewhat overestimated, which would naturally understate the death-rate. Taking, however, the population at 205,402, the birth-rate in 1875 was equal to 32.3, and the death-rate to 26.1 per 1,000. Zymotic diseases killed 1,106 persons in the year, the death-rate from those causes being 5.4 per 1,000. Compared with the average ratio in the eighteen large English towns during the year, the birth-rate was 5 per 1,000 below, while the death-rate from all causes and from the principal zymotic diseases showed an excess of 1 per 1,000. The proportion of zymotic deaths to total deaths in Belfast was 20.1 per cent.; whereas in the eighteen English towns it did not exceed 17.3. The 6,634 deaths in Belfast included 356 from scarlet fever, 280 from measles, 194 from diarrhoea, 136 from fever, 87 from whooping-cough, 33 from diphtheria, and 20 from small-pox. Dr. Browne, while acknowledging that the sanitary condition of the Belfast population is susceptible of great improvement, appears to draw comfort from the fact that the death-rate of the town in 1875 was exceeded in many other large towns of the United Kingdom. We are glad to observe from the report that steps are being taken to ascertain the mortality of certain districts of the town, with a view to the application of the powers conferred by the Artisans' Dwellings Act upon sanitary authorities for improving the dwellings of the working classes.

A CURIOUS QUESTION.

SIR:—I was a candidate for the appointment of resident medical officer to the Wandsworth and Clapham Union. On the 13th instant, I appeared, with other candidates, before the Board, and was much struck, on being asked by the chairman, among other questions, "whether I was conversant with the management of a laundry". May I inquire of you if the Poor-law Board expect their workhouse medical officers, in addition to their multifarious and onerous duties, to undertake the superintendence of a *blanchisserie*?—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

JOHN FRENCH BLAKE, M.R.C.P., etc., late Resident Medical Officer of Charing Cross Hospital.

36, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, W.C., Dec. 14th, 1875.

** We can hardly imagine that the chairman of the district referred to could have been in earnest when he asked our correspondent, on appearing before him as a candidate for the appointment of resident medical officer, whether "he was acquainted with the management of a laundry". He must have been attempting a joke, the point of which we fail to see. But whether in joke or earnest, we must enter our protest against such impertinences, even from the chairman of a board of guardians. The only reasonable solution of the affair is, that our correspondent might have mistaken the words, or the meaning of the question; though, unfortunately, many heedless and even offensive questions are occasionally put to candidates.

MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.—The following candidates for Her Majesty's Indian Medical Service were successful at the competitive examination held at London in August 1875, and have undergone a course of instruction at the Army Medical School, Netley. The number of marks are the totals of those obtained at London and at Netley.

	Marks.		Marks.
*1. Weir, P. A.	5536	6. Pedroza, F. H.	4681
2. Freyer, P. J.	5508	7. O'Neill, J.	4675
3. Haigh, P. de H.	4826	8. Clarkson, J. W.	4472
4. Levitas, J.	4729	9. Parker, Jos.	4188
5. Ferrand, E.	4708	10. Day, C. H.	4096

* Gained the Herbert Prize.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Tuesday, February 15th, 1876.

The following notices of motion were given.

Mr. WARD: To ask the Secretary of State for War how many civilian medical men are at present employed in the United Kingdom doing duty with troops.

Mr. WARD: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether an official inquiry into the circumstances of the breaking out of scurvy on board the *Royal Sovereign* will be, or has been, ordered by the Board, when and where it will be held, and whether the report will be published.

Mr. CHARLEY: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the recent fatal outbreak of typhoid fever at Eagley, near Bolton, in Lancashire, which is attributed by the medical officer of health to the pollution of milk by water filled with sewage, used for washing the milk-cans; and whether, in view of the numerous and fatal outbreaks of a similar kind in Islington, Marylebone, Glasgow, Jarro, and other places, which have been, after due investigation, attributed to a similar pollution of the milk-supply, he will consider the expediency of introducing a measure for the protection of health by special sanitary supervision of dairy-farms, and of the premises in which milk is stored prior to sale by urban milk-vendors.

The second reading of the Medical Act Amendment (Foreign Universities) Bill has been deferred from Wednesday, April 26th, till Wednesday, July 5th.

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, February 10th, 1876.

Allen, Morgan Henry Lawrence, St. John's Wood
Ayres, John William, Ramsgate
Gurly, Walter John, Bacup, Lancashire
Jaquet, John Lewis, 27, Vincent Square, S.W.
Reilly, Frederick James, Globe Road, Mile End
Walker, George Abraham, Aldbrough, Darlington

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

Le Quesne, Edwin Joseph, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Poland, James Harry, Guy's Hospital
Young, John, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:—

BIRKENHEAD BOROUGH HOSPITAL—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £60 per annum, with board and lodgings. Applications on or before the 21st instant, to E. Mengens, Esq., 24, Park Road South, Birkenhead.

BIRMINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL—Resident Surgical Officer. Salary, £130 per annum, with board and residence. Applications on or before the 28th instant.

BRISTOL GENERAL HOSPITAL—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications on or before March 7th.

CAMBERWELL WORKHOUSE INFIRMARY—Medical Officer. Salary, £250 per annum, with residence and extra fees, to a maximum amount of £15 per annum. Applications on or before the 28th instant.

CARLISLE DISPENSARY—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £90 per ann., with apartments, coals, gas, and attendance (not board). Applications to the Honorary Secretary.

CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Victoria Park—Assistant Physician. Applications on or before the 26th instant.

CLINICAL HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY FOR CHILDREN, Manchester—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum; engagement for one year from March 25th. Applications not later than March 1st.

HUDDERSFIELD INFIRMARY—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £40 per annum, with board and washing. Applications on or before March 1st.

LEWES DISPENSARY AND INFIRMARY, Sussex—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £100 for the first year, with furnished apartments, attendance, and allowance for coals and gas. Applications not later than the 19th instant.

LINCOLN LUNATIC HOSPITAL—Resident Medical Superintendent. Salary, £150 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications not later than March 11th.

LISNASKEA UNION—Medical and Sanitary Officer for the Brookborough Dispensary. Salary, £130 per annum. Applications on or before March 21st.

MACCLESFIELD GENERAL INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon. Salary, £120 per annum, with board and residence. Applications on or before the 26th inst.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM—Medical Superintendent. Salary, £500 per annum, with residence (free of rates and taxes), and with gas and water laid on. Applications on or before the 1st March.

NORTH LONDON HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION—Physician. Applications on or before March 1st.

NOTTINGHAM DISPENSARY—Assistant Resident Surgeon (single). Salary, £170 per annum, with furnished apartments, coals, and gas. Applications on or before March 20th.

PORTLAND TOWN FREE DISPENSARY—Resident House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with rooms, attendance, coals, and gas. Applications by the 27th instant.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, Galway—Professor of Midwifery. Applications, on or before the 19th instant, to the Under Secretary, Dublin Castle.

ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, City Road—Honorary Surgeon. Applications on or before the 28th inst.

ST. COLUMB MAJOR UNION, Cornwall—Medical Officer for the Third and Seventh Districts. Aggregate salary, £50:10 per annum, exclusive of fees. Applications on or before March 8th.

SHEFFIELD PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £65 per annum, with apartments, washing, and board. Applications on or before the 22nd instant.

SOUTH DEVON AND EAST CORNWALL HOSPITAL, Plymouth—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with board. Applications on or before the 1st March.

TIVERTON INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY, Devon—House-Surgeon and Dispenser. Salary, £100 per annum, with furnished apartments, coals, gas, and attendance. Applications to the Honorary Secretary.

TORBAY INFIRMARY, Torquay—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £60 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications to the Honorary Secretary.

WESTERN OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, Marylebone Road—Honorary Surgeon. Applications not later than the 19th instant.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

BENTON, Samuel, L.R.C.P., appointed Assistant Medical Officer for the Highgate Asylum of the Central London Sick Asylum District, *vice* H. S. Branfoot, M.B., resigned.

BROWN, Thomas J., M.B., appointed House Surgeon to the Liverpool Dispensaries, *vice* E. S. Warburton, M.R.C.S. Eng., resigned.

CARLINE, W. A., M.B., appointed House Surgeon to the Lincoln County Hospital, *vice* W. F. Lill, M.D., resigned.

*CLARKE, J. Lockhart, M.D., F.R.S., appointed Honorary Consulting Physician for Nervous Affections to the Hospital for Diseases Peculiar to Women and Children, in Vincent Square, Westminster.

OWEN, Edmund, F.R.C.S., appointed Consulting Surgeon to St. John's Wood and Portland Town Dispensary, *vice* G. G. Gascoyen, F.R.C.S., deceased.

*WILLIAMS, J. Llewelyn, M.B., appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Wrexham Infirmary, *vice* *T. Eytton Jones, M.R.C.S. Eng., resigned, and appointed Consulting Surgeon.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, is 3s. 6d., which should be forwarded in stamps with the communication.

BIRTH.

LEE.—On February 15th, at The Elms, Heckmondwike, the wife of Francis Boynton Lee, F.R.C.P., etc., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

KILIAN—CLARK.—At 17, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh, on the 10th instant, by the Rev. Fortescue Anderson, of North Berwick, Dr. Paul Kilian, of Aix-la-Chapelle, only son of the late Professor Kilian, of Bonn, to Jane Grace, eldest daughter of Andrew Rutherford Clark, one of the Judges of the Court of Session, Scotland.

DEATH.

HUNT, William John, L.R.C.P., aged 38, at Silverstone, on February 14th.

PREHISTORIC REMAINS.—At the Faculty of Sciences at Marseilles, M. Marion has described a highly important discovery which has just been made in the neighbourhood of Marseilles. There has been in the valley of St. Clair near Germenos, a station (place of habitation and sepulture) of the prehistoric ages of humanity. It is a grotto which opens in a fault or fissure of the Jurassic limestone. At the bottom were accumulated human bones belonging to a dozen subjects, men and women, as well as cut flints, serving as arms or instruments, and some fragments of rough pottery. The chief characters of the skull were large openings of the orbits, the development of the zygomatic bones, the flattening of the root of the nose, the prognathism of the upper jaw, the lower being orthognathous. The limbs were slight, and the stature low. The pottery resembles that of the dolmen of Draguignan.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

- MONDAY**Metropolitan 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.
- TUESDAY**Guy'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.
- THURSDAY**St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Hospital for Women, 2 P.M.—St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department), 3 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.—Guy's, 1.30 P.M.
- SATURDAY**St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 9.30 A.M. and 1.30 P.M.—Royal Free, 9 A.M. and 2 P.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

- MONDAY**.—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Walter Coulson, "On Lithotomy and Lithotripsy"; Mr. Gant, "A Case of Lithotripsy in a Female"; Dr. De Havilland Hall, "Tumour springing from the Lumbar Vertebrae, simulating Enlargement of the Liver".
- TUESDAY**.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Dr. W. Roberts (of Manchester), "On the estimation of Albumen in Urine by a new method"; Dr. Wickham Legg, "On the Urea and Chlorides in the Urine of Jaundice"; Surgeon-Major Porter, "On Intermittent Hamorrhage from Malarial Influence".
- WEDNESDAY**.—Hunterian Society, 8 P.M. Dr. Langdon Down, "On the Causes of Idiocy".
- FRIDAY**.—Quekett Microscopical Club (University College), 8 P.M. Mr. R. Packenham Williams, "On an Improved Freezing Microtome"; Mr. Nathaniel E. Green, "On a new Stage Arrangement for the Examination of Objects by Reflected or Transmitted Light"; Clinical Society, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Dyce Duckworth, "A patient with Morphaea"; Dr. Moxon, "Two Cases of Leukæmia, one Simple, one with Jaundice, neither with notable Enlargement of the Spleen, both treated with Phosphorus, and both dying by Hamorrhage"; Dr. Duffin, "A Case of Menière's Disease"; Mr. Maunder, "A successful Case of Gastro-enterotomy (Artificial Anus in small Intestine) in a male aged 68".

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS 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, 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, 36, Great Queen Street, W.C.

EDINBURGH.—Dr. Noel Gueneau de Mussy and Dr. Henri Gueneau de Mussy are related. Dr. Henri Gueneau de Mussy, who was for many years settled in England, and is a Fellow of our London College of Physicians, received a cordial testimony of the good feeling of his Fellows at a banquet given to him under the presidency of Sir Thomas Watson, when he, a few years ago, quitted London, and resumed practice in Paris, following the fortunes of the Orleans family. He is now practising in Paris. Dr. Noel Gueneau de Mussy, his cousin, who has lately visited us at the annual meetings of the British Medical Association, is Physician of Hôtel Dieu, and has always practised in Paris, where he holds an eminent position as a physician and teacher.

SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION AT LEEDS.

Mr. T. HOLMES, Vaccination Officer of Leeds, complains of a paragraph which appeared in the JOURNAL of last week, in which it was stated that eleven deaths from small-pox had occurred at Leeds, which was also said to be one of the towns in which "vaccination had been more or less neglected". The paragraph in question was taken from the Registrar-General's last Quarterly Return.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements for insertion in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, should be forwarded direct to the Publishing Office, 36, Great Queen Street, W.C., addressed to Mr. FOWKE, no later than *Thursday*, twelve o'clock.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS OF MEDICAL BOOKS.

"One who has never Written a Book" has omitted to forward his name. His argument, we would, however, suggest to him, is vitiated by the fact that medical treatises are divided into two palpable classes—those which are intended for public reading, and those which avowedly are not. The objection urged is against advertising in the newspapers those which are not intended for public reading, not such popular medical books as are intended for popular readers. If the rule contended for were once clearly established in this as it is in other countries, it would be open to any medical writer to range his work in one class or the other. Books intended for medical readers would be advertised in medical journals; books intended for public perusal would be appropriately announced in the public newspapers. The author's intentions would be palpable, and his book would be fairly judged accordingly. At present, medical books are often advertised in the daily papers at an avowed loss, not for the purpose of selling the book, but of familiarising the public eye with the name of the author in connection with a given malady. The book is, in fact, often merely "a card"; and as medical men generally are, by common consent, forbidden from directly advertising their "cards" in the newspapers, there seems to be very good reason for abstaining from the practice of doing so indirectly.

JOHN HUNTER.—In his very interesting life of this distinguished surgeon, Mr. Drewry Outley states that in politics he was as strenuous a Tory as Dr. Johnson or the renowned Christopher North could have desired, and was not more lenient than they towards those who differed from him in opinion. He used to say, that "he wished all the rascals who were dissatisfied with their country would be good enough to leave it". As illustrating this strong feeling, the following extract from an unpublished letter, sold recently in a collection of autographs, by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge, will, no doubt, be very interesting to many of our readers. The letter is an one-page 4to, in answer to a person applying for a ticket to view his collection. He writes (we preserve the spelling): "If your friend is in London in October (and not a Democrat), he is welcome to see it; but I would rather see it in a blaze, like the Bastille, than show it to a Democrat, let his country be what it may." This feeling does not appear to be shared by the present Conservator of that Museum, and the Hunterian Professor, Mr. W. H. Flower, judging from the large number of "British workmen" he occasionally takes round the Museum on a Saturday afternoon.

THE "SPOT-STROKE" AT BILLIARDS.

No one who watches carefully a game at billiards can avoid being interested in the feat by which the "spot-stroke" is repeated. The striker having once brought his own ball into position for the "spot-stroke", and accomplished the mechanical feat of repeating it a dozen times or more, there seems no very valid reason why the stroke should not be continued indefinitely, or at least until "game" is called. But sooner or later the stroke fails, or the striker's ball is left in a position from which it is very difficult, or even impossible, to make the winning hazard successfully, and so he has to play all round the table for some time, until he can get his ball once more into position for the spot-stroke. The *a priori* view is, that the most difficult part of the business is to get into position for working the spot-stroke, but such is not really the case: the difficulty is to keep it up. It is not that the muscles of the arm fail or tire; it is the muscular adjustment of the eye which becomes exhausted. In keeping up the spot-stroke, a series of very fine adjustments of "accommodation" have to be made in quick succession, and sooner or later the eye becomes weary, and failure is the consequence. Possibly the brain-centres in connection with the eyes, by which the calculation is made, how much muscular force is to be liberated for the stroke, and how the muscles have to be co-ordinated, are chiefly affected in the exhaustion; but the muscular apparatus of the eye itself is implicated. As might be expected, from the experience of the rifle range, grey or blue eyes have an advantage over other coloured eyes; and a large proportion of those who do the spot-stroke well have light coloured eyes. By playing more slowly, and by looking into distant space away from the balls between each stroke, probably the "spot-stroke" could be played even longer than it now is.

A LEADS MEMBER.—Ample accommodation will be found at Brighton for members attending the annual meeting in August next.

CHARGES FOR DEATH-CERTIFICATES.

SIR.—Will you, or one of your many readers, kindly tell me whether it is legal or customary for a medical man (who has attended the case) to charge for a death-certificate—one intended for the registrar—forms of which are supplied gratis to any registered practitioner on application? It has not been the custom here; but recently a Mr. Wagstaffe has commenced practice here, and is doing so. I am quite under the impression that if a medical man attend a case up till death, he is bound to give a certificate of the cause of death, or to render himself liable to a fine.—Faithfully yours, G. O. McKANE, L.R.C.P. Ed., etc.

Byers Green, Willington, Durham, Feb. 15th, 1875.

* * It is quite legal, and often customary, to charge for a certificate; but in case of payment being refused, it is not legal to withhold it on that account.

BICUSPID (Brighton).—The following is the form of the Dental Diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. "Royal College of Surgeons of England. —We, the Board of Examiners in Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, do hereby certify that we have deliberately examined Mr. _____, and have found him to be duly qualified to practise the art and science of Dental Surgery. Dated this _____ day of _____. The diploma is signed by the six members of the Board, and the Secretary.