

without removing them, by means of a funnel. Whenever he takes a long rest, they are put in a bath of warm sea-salt and water, where they are allowed to remain for five minutes exactly. They are then very carefully dried with a soft cloth, care being taken not to rub them, and special attention directed to the parts between the toes; and, lastly, they are thoroughly wetted with whiskey, which is allowed to dry on. Should there be any blister, that is carefully pricked with a needle, the skin being left *in situ*.

Weston's competitors were both soldiers, and well-known pedestrians, named, respectively, Martin and Taylor. It may be at once remarked, however, that the circumstances under which they entered upon their task, preclude any reference to them as "competitors" with Weston. Without presuming to criticise the business arrangements of this race, it may be stated that, in fact, they were throughout unprovided either with the necessary kinds of food, the necessary accommodation for quiet sleeping, or any competent advisers.

At 1.10 A.M., on the 6th instant, Weston had covered five miles six laps, or one lap less than six miles; time of last mile, 11 min. 38 sec. His walk, which, as compared with that of most English pedestrians, appeared inelegant, contrasted favourably with that of either of the others. His stride is much shorter, being 2 feet 9 inches, against Taylor's of 3 feet 3 inches; while Martin's measures the extraordinary length of 3 feet 10 inches. This gives the latter a very peculiar spring at each step, and puts the muscles both of his leg and thigh to great exertion. His speed was, nevertheless, less than that of the others. At the time last mentioned, Taylor had covered six miles one lap, at 11 min. 5 sec. to the mile; while Martin was going over the first lap of his fifth mile, at 12 min. 36 sec. to the mile.

[We are compelled, from want of space, to omit here Mr. Thompson's interesting and accurate notes this week, on the further progress of Weston in the extraordinary feat which he is now accomplishing.]

In the notes which I have made, no observations of temperature are recorded. There is a particular reason for that, which applies equally to all the other precise observations which are being carried out upon Weston under Dr. Pavy's direction; but most especially, perhaps, to what has been regarded as the most important—the estimation of the urea excreted. At intervals, as he persistently pursues his route, Weston may be seen to go through the action of chewing; and a brown stain upon his lips, which the observant spectator may notice at the same time, lead to the suspicion that he is refreshing himself with a quid of tobacco. Yet it is well known that both during a walk, and for some time previous to it, Weston renounces tobacco; and, on these occasions, he is masticating a substance which, although credited with some of the properties of tobacco, is the most serviceable of its class for use under exertion. That substance is the dried leaf of the Erythroxylon Coca. This, it needs scarcely be remarked, has no connection with the cacao plant, although the active principle of each is said to be similar, if not identical, with the other, as well as with that of tea, coffee, and guarana. Provided with adequate supplies of this leaf, the South American Indian is able to perform tasks, prolonged over a period of days, not only without food, but without discomfort. As a rule, however, he uses it during the day only, in the evening taking a copious meal with a hearty appetite. Perhaps the best authenticated account of its effects, save those which have been written by such travellers as Pöppig and Von Tschudi, is that given by Sir Robert Christison, in his address to the Edinburgh Botanical Society, in 1875 (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, vol. ii, 1875). That gentleman, who is well known to be advanced in years, related how he made the ascent of Ben Voirlich; and how, arriving at the summit greatly fatigued, he chewed a portion of coca leaves, and found himself able to make the descent with firmness and juvenile elasticity. He also stated that, with the assistance of the coca leaf, he could walk sixteen miles with ease, while, without it, he felt (on other occasions) very much fatigued. According to Dr. Alexander Bennett (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, vol. i, 1875), this plant, when taken into the system, affects the pulse and respiration, increasing both in frequency and the former in force, at first; subsequently, if the dose be large, it diminishes both. Von Tschudi also refers to its effects upon respiration from a personal observation of them; alleging that, under its influence, at a height of 14,000 feet above the sea-level, he was able to run, hunting and shooting, with no more discomfort than he would have suffered on the sea-coast.

The general opinion is, that coca, like other plants from which theine may be extracted, diminishes the waste of the tissues; and, on no other hypothesis does it seem possible to account for the power of sustaining prolonged exertion without food, which it confers; for no part of the leaf is swallowed, and even of the juice extracted by mastication, a part is rejected. But this explanation has been removed from the region of theory by the personal experiment of Dr. W. Carter of Liverpool (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, vol. i, 1875). Other conditions being

as nearly similar as possible, Dr. Carter analysed his urine during two successive days, on the second of which he took one drachm of a tincture of erythroxylon four times. On the first day, the quantity of urine was 35 oz., specific gravity 1027; the amount of urea, 420 gr. On the second day, the quantity was 35½ oz., specific gravity 1020; the amount of urea 315 gr. Thus under the use of the tincture of coca-leaf, there was a reduction in the amount of urea of 105 gr.—a quantity too large to be accounted for by any accidental circumstance occurring during two days, upon which, other circumstances were noted to be as nearly similar as possible. Hence, it appears that this plant acts upon the system in precisely the manner anticipated—by retarding the waste of the tissues; and thus that reduction of temperature by two degrees, which was noticed in Weston's forty-eight hours' walk (Vide BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of February 26), may be accounted for.

It is here to be observed, that other men undergoing excessive exertion during the present exhibition have not shown any such reduction. For this reason, then, that Weston's temperature is kept below the usual point attained under exertion by an agent, the physiological powers of which I am unable to estimate, I have refrained from troubling him on this occasion with the thermometer. Having noted that the temperature is thus reduced, I have not felt able to make any further observation with advantage.

Coca having been shown to exercise (as has been anticipated) a direct control over the amount of urea excreted, that must be taken into consideration before drawing any conclusions from the elaborate and careful analysis of Weston's urine, now in course of publication by Dr. Pavy.

J. ASHBURTON THOMPSON.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

THE spring meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Railway Hotel, Taunton, on Thursday, March 16th, at 5 o'clock.

The question for discussion will be, "Are Cottage or Village Hospitals desirable?"

Members having any communication to bring before the meeting will oblige me by sending notice of its title; also by informing me before the day of meeting if they purpose being at the dinner.

Dinner on the table at 5 o'clock; 4s. each, exclusive of wine.

HENRY ALFORD, *Hon. Sec. pro tem.*

Taunton, February 22nd, 1876.

SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SUSSEX DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE first meeting of the above District for the present year will be held on Friday, March 24th, at 3 o'clock, at the Sussex Hotel, Tunbridge Wells: WILLIAM WALLIS, Esq., of Hartfield, in the Chair.

All members of the South Eastern Branch are entitled to attend and to introduce professional friends.

Dinner will be provided at the hotel at 5 o'clock.

Papers, etc., are expected from W. Wallis, Esq., Chairman; Dr. Wardell; and Mr. G. F. Hodgson.

Notice of intended communications is requested to be forwarded to the Secretary by Wednesday, the 15th instant.

THOMAS TROLLOPE, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

35, Marina, St. Leonards-on-Sea, March 7th, 1876.

NORTH WALES BRANCH.

THE intermediate meeting of this Branch will be held at the Crown Hotel, Denbigh, on March 28th, 1876, at 12 A.M.

Dinner at 3 P.M.

T. EYTON JONES, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

Wrexham, March 7th, 1876.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE fourth ordinary meeting of the session was held at the Royal Hotel, College Green, Bristol, on Thursday evening, March 2nd: W. M. CLARKE, Esq., President, in the Chair. There were also present thirty-nine members and two visitors.

New Member.—Alexander Skipton, L.R.C.P.Ed., of Midsomer Norton, was duly elected a member of this Branch.

Papers.—1. Dr. FYFFE read an interesting and practical paper on the Diagnosis of Hepatic Abscess, illustrating the paper with numerous cases. A long discussion ensued, in which Dr. Cole, Dr. Stewart, Dr. E. L. Fox, Dr. Brittan, Dr. Goodridge, and Messrs. Black and Fendick, took part. Dr. Fyffe replied.

2. Dr. A. E. AUST LAWRENCE read a Report of the Practice in the Obstetric Department of the Bristol General Hospital for the year 1875.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

SIR,—As the terms in which the official statement on behalf of the Committee of Council, printed in the JOURNAL of March 4th, speaks of the late meeting held in Brighton on the 22nd ultimo, are calculated to mislead not only the members of the Association, but the profession generally, I feel constrained, as chairman of that meeting, to set forth thus publicly its true nature.

The meeting in question was convened by a circular signed by the three Secretaries appointed by the Committee of Council, and sent to every qualified practitioner in the town.

The objects of the meeting being set forth in the agenda (the appointments of President, Vice-President, and Secretaries of each Section, and the members of the six or seven Local Committees), we have a right to assume that all interested in the approaching August meeting attended in person or by letter. What are the facts? Thirty-one responded to this invitation. Out of these, twenty-five voted for Dr. Withers Moore's amendment; and one (exclusive of the Secretaries) against it; thus clearly showing forth the feeling which pervades the profession as to the line of conduct which has been pursued by the authorities of the Association.

As the history of this unfortunate business will no doubt be written before the time of the August meeting, I shall forbear to comment upon the taste or wisdom of the acts of the Association, and will briefly add that, in my humble opinion, the British Medical Association, and not the profession of Brighton, are responsible for the present unseemly state of matters.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM KEBBELL, M.D., Chairman of the Brighton Meeting.
Brighton, March 7th, 1876.

COTTAGE HOSPITALS.

SIR,—The grievance complained of by "A Local Practitioner" in our JOURNAL of March 4th, respecting the non-payment of fees for cases treated in the Boston Cottage Hospital, is no doubt a real and serious one. At the same time, I should hope it is not without a remedy. In drawing up the rules and regulations for the Newick Cottage Hospital, which was established about six years ago, we adopted most of the suggestions contained in Mr. Napper's excellent pamphlet on *Village Hospitals*, from which I will quote a passage or two.

"An important consideration in the establishment of a village hospital is the arrangement for the medical attendance. At the meeting of the British Medical Association held at Bristol in August 1865, this subject was discussed in a sectional Committee appointed for the purpose; and the prevailing opinion appeared to be, that one surgeon only should take the entire charge of it, whilst the whole medical community of the district should be invited to co-operate by rendering assistance in any cases in which they might be interested. Thus, if a practitioner of the neighbourhood had a case for admission, he should, by courtesy, be privileged to visit his patient, and advise with the medical officer respecting the mode of treatment to be followed; and, if a case for operation, he should have the option of performing it himself, or leaving it to the care of the hospital attendant. By this means, the hospital is made subservient to the interests of the whole medical body of the district."

In speaking of the cases attended in the Cranleigh Hospital during the first four years, Mr. Napper says: "Of the seventy-seven paupers, ten were cases of accident and operation, for which the board of guardians paid the usual extra fees, amounting to £36. It is made a condition of admission, fully acquiesced in by the board of guardians, that the extra fee due for any such case of a pauper admitted shall be paid to the surgeon who would otherwise have attended it."

Arrangements similar to those mentioned by Mr. Napper were made with two boards of guardians with reference to the Newick Cottage

Hospital; and it appears to me that some such agreement with regard to the Boston Cottage Hospital is all that is required to remove the grievance complained of.—I am yours, etc.,

RICHARD GRAVELY,
Medical Superintendent of the Newick Cottage Hospital.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

WE learn that Mr. Willan has resigned the Leigh District of the Martley Union, to which he was elected a short time previously to his recent appointment to the Claines District of the Droitwich Union.

THE Medical Officer of Health for Alverstoke has presented his first annual report. The district has had extraordinary immunity from zymotic and epidemic diseases. With regard to the offensive animal matter in the moats surrounding the town and the creek of Haslar, he considers the emanations highly prejudicial to health, and expresses a hope that the Government will take steps to abolish the moats. He would leave Haslar Creek to engineering skill to find some remedy for the existing evils. The water-supply from the Waterworks Company was all that could be desired, and ought to be the only water used, *as all wells were more or less impure*. The surrounding circumstances of the public-slaughter-houses were defective; and he advocates the erection of a general slaughter-house in proximity to the town, as an advantage to the butchers and the general public. The mortality amongst the males has been greater than amongst the females.

THE Local Government Board have, after consideration of the report of their Inspector, proposed to constitute a joint Board for the Port of Truro and the part of the Port of Falmouth which lies within a straight line drawn from Foze Point to Pendennis Point; that the Town Council of Truro should contribute four-fifteenths of the expenses of the Port Sanitary Authority; Falmouth Local Board, four-fifteenths; Falmouth Town Council, two-fifteenths; Penryn Town Council, one-fifteenth; the Truro Union Rural Sanitary Authority, three-fifteenths; and the Falmouth Rural Sanitary Authority, one-fifteenth; and that the joint Board shall consist of fifteen members elected by the several riparian authorities in proportion to the amount which each contributes to the expenses. By this arrangement, the representation will be as follows: Town Council of Truro, four members; Falmouth Local Board, four members; Truro Rural Sanitary Authority, three members; Town Council of Falmouth, two members; Town Council of Penryn, one member; and the Falmouth Rural Sanitary Authority, one member.

SANITATION AT KESWICK.

MR. FOX, the medical officer of health for Keswick, has lately presented an elaborate report to his Board on the results of a house-to-house inspection of the majority of the houses in the town. He stated that he usually presented three kinds of reports to the Board every year: one on vital statistics, especially with reference to the general effects of sanitary improvements on the public health; the second on local outbreaks of infectious diseases, if any; and the third, which had to do with preventive agencies. This latter enabled him to keep the Board informed of all the conditions which remained in the town that were likely to be injurious to health. "As prevention is of greater public service than cure, I regard the last class of reports as the most important."

Mr. Fox seems to perform his duties in a very forbearing spirit, although, from the manner in which all his recommendations were adopted, there does not appear to be any necessity for an expression even of dissatisfaction. He says: "Adverse comments can bring no injury to a public officer. They only bring his work forward as a matter of general inquiry, and inquiry must ever lead to a discovery of the truth; and discovered truth is only the parent of its own seen advancement."

He went on to say that a consistent line of conduct in the removal of all conditions likely to be injurious to the public health was a necessity for the Board and himself, as any deviation only led to some of their orders seeming to be arbitrary and oppressive, which would not have been the case if they were uniformly applied; that, therefore, individual considerations should be waived in favour of the general welfare.

He then reminded the Board how necessary it is for their interest,

will be fresh in the remembrance of our readers, distinguished as it was for the breadth and power of the views expressed, and the grace and elegance of its composition. The University of Edinburgh last year conferred upon him the honorary degree of LL.D., in consideration of his professional eminence and erudition.

Since the death of his father in 1869, Dr. Begbie had been engaged in a most extensive consulting practice, larger certainly than has previously been enjoyed by any consulting physician in Scotland. For this kind of work he was eminently fitted by personal qualities: of splendid *physique* and handsome features, his presence and manner inspired confidence; and, while he brought to bear upon the case before him an extensive knowledge of disease, rapid diagnosis, and firm and decided views with regard to treatment, he impressed patient and practitioner alike with a sense of his power and ability. Gentle and kind by nature, he was endeared to all with whom he came into contact, and won the affection as well as the esteem of those who consulted him.

Notwithstanding his very numerous engagements of late years, he found time to contribute many papers of interest and importance to the literature of the profession. Among the best known of these are several articles in Reynolds's *System of Medicine*, on Diseases of the Liver, on some Special Diseases of the Nervous System, and on Relapsing Fever. His papers published at various times in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* include the following:—"Facts and Opinions with regard to Asiatic Cholera"; "Carbonaceous Matter in the Lungs"; "Leukæmia"; "Ichthyosis"; "Lead-impregnation in connection with Gout and Rheumatism"; "Vascular Bronchocele"; "Diagnostic Value of Accentuated Cardiac Second Sound"; "Paracentesis Thoracis in the Treatment of Pleural Effusions, Acute and Chronic"; "Early History of Anatomy"; "The Swelled Leg of Fevers"; "Therapeutic Action of Muriate of Lime"; "The Bromide Question"; "Hæmatinuria"; and many others.

Early in life, he published a book of popular advice under the name of *A Handy Book of Medical Information and Advice*, by a Physician; which obtained a wide circulation, and of which a new edition was published in 1873.

In private life, Dr. Begbie was an upright, straightforward, and amiable man; a man of many charities done without ostentation, and with that kindly interest which exalts the value of proffered assistance. His simple, earnest Christian character enhanced among those who knew him well the esteem which his professional pre-eminence claimed. His illness was not of long duration; thoroughly overcome with excess of work, on February 9th, he left Edinburgh, intending to proceed to the South of England, and eventually to Italy; but, on reaching Carlisle, he was so fatigued, that he was unable to continue his journey. Three days later, he returned to Edinburgh, suffering from great prostration and extremely irregular and feeble action of the heart. Sleeplessness, entire loss of appetite, and vomiting added still further to his prostrate condition. From the first, he entertained a bad opinion of his own case, and indicated his belief that the result would be fatal. Notwithstanding slight occasional appearances of amendment, he gradually sank and died on the 25th ult., retaining his mental faculties to the last. A *post mortem* examination revealed a very large dilated heart, with thin walls, and an unusually wide tricuspid orifice.

Dr. Begbie leaves a widow and six children to lament his loss.

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, March 2nd, 1876.

Brown, Francis Wheeler, Brompton Hospital
Young, John, Narborough House, Leicestershire

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

Congreve, George Thomas, King's College
Crowther, William Harding, King's College
Lee, Roger, Guy's Hospital
Richards, Philip Morgan, London Hospital
Teevan, Frederick Adolphus, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:—

BIRMINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL—Resident Registrar and Pathologist. Salary, £130 per annum, with board and residence. Applications on or before the 31st instant.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL—Physician or Surgeon for the Treatment of Diseases of the Skin. Applications on or before the 28th instant.

DERBY URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT—Medical Officer of Health. Salary, £50 per annum.

GENERAL INFIRMARY, Leeds—House-Physician. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, furnished apartments, and washing. Applications not later than the 21st instant.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, Caledonian Road, N.—Physician. Applications on or before April 4th.

HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE THROAT, Golden Square—Physician. Applications on or before the 25th instant.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, Barnwood, near Gloucester—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, increasing £10 per annum to £120, with board (exclusive of wine), lodging, and washing. Applications to the Medical Superintendent.

INFIRMARY FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Margaret Street, W.—Honorary Physician. Applications on or before the 20th instant.

KENT COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM, Chartham, near Canterbury—Assistant Medical Officer and Dispenser. Salary, £120 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications on or before the 31st instant.

LEEK UNION—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Endon District. Salary, £50 per annum, with fees. Applications not later than the 14th instant.

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

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

LONDONDERY UNION—Medical Officer for the Glendermott Dispensary District. Salary, £130 per annum. Also for the Workhouse. Salary, £70 per annum.

MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY, DISPENSARY, and LUNATIC HOSPITAL or ASYLUM—Honorary Assistant Surgeon. Applications not later than the 25th instant.

MERCER'S HOSPITAL, Dublin—Surgeon.

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

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, Galway—Professor of Midwifery. Applications on or before September 1st.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, IRELAND—Five Examiners: Medicine, at £100 per annum; Surgery, at £100 per annum; Midwifery, etc., at £75 per annum; Materia Medica, at £75 per annum; Medical Jurisprudence, at £75 per annum.

SALFORD and PENDLETON ROYAL HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon for the Pendleton Branch Dispensary. Salary, £100 per annum, with board and apartments. Applications on or before the 14th instant.

THRINGOE UNION, Suffolk—Medical Officer for the First District. Salary, £66 per annum.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON—Eighteen Examiners: two in Chemistry, at £175 per annum each; two in Medicine, at £150 per annum each; two in Surgery, at £150 per annum each; two in Physiology, etc., at £150 per annum each; two in Anatomy, at £100 per annum each; two in Botany, at £75 per annum each; two in Obstetric Medicine, at £75 per annum each; two in Materia Medica, etc., at £75 per annum each; and two in Forensic Medicine, at £50 per annum each. Applications on or before the 28th instant.

WALSINGHAM UNION, Norfolk—Medical Officer for the Fakenham District. Salary, £50 per annum, and fees. Applications not later than the 28th instant.

WEST DERBY UNION WORKHOUSE, Lancashire—Medical Officer. Salary, £125 per annum.

WESTMORLAND LOCK HOSPITAL, Dublin—Surgeon.

WHITEHAVEN and WEST CUMBERLAND INFIRMARY and FEVER HOSPITAL—Resident House-Surgeon and Dispenser. Salary, £130 per annum, with room attendance, fire, and gas. Applications on or before the 21st instant.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

CLARK, Thomas M., M.B., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Gateshead Dispensary, *vice* J. W. Taylor, M.B., appointed Resident Medical Officer.

COUPLAND, Sidney, M.D., appointed Physician to the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, *vice* R. Boyd, M.D., resigned.

EWENS, John, L.R.C.P. Lond., appointed one of the Acting Medical Officers of the Bristol Hospital for Sick Children and for the Out-door Treatment of Women, *vice* Henry Pigeon, L.R.C.P. Ed., resigned.

***FOTHERGILL, J. Milner, M.D., M.R.C.P.**, appointed Assistant Physician to the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, *vice* *W. H. Corfield, M.D., resigned.

***HAWARD, Edwin, M.D.**, appointed Physician to the North London Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, *vice* William Lomas, M.D., resigned.

HAWKINS, Alexander F., M.R.C.S. Eng., appointed Resident Medical Officer to the Birmingham General Hospital, *vice* W. Otley, M.B., resigned.

HERMAN, George E., M.R.C.P., appointed Medical Registrar to the London Hospital.

HICKS, Edward J. W., M.B., appointed Accoucheur to the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, *vice* G. Fowler, M.R.C.P. Ed., resigned.

HYDE, George E., M.R.C.S. Eng., appointed Surgeon to the Worcester General Infirmary, *vice* H. W. Budd, F.R.C.S. Eng., deceased.

MACKINLAY, James Grosvenor, L.R.C.P., appointed Surgeon to the Western Ophthalmic Hospital, *vice* Delamark Freeman, M.R.C.S.

PARKER, Robert W., M.R.C.S. Eng., appointed Surgical Registrar to the London Hospital.

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.

TYLECOTE.—On March 8th, at Great Haywood, Staffordshire, the wife of *E. T. Tylecote, M.D., of a daughter.

DEATH.

***ELLERY, Henry James, M.D.**, at Axminster, aged 46, on February 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.

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.

FRIDAYRoyal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Royal South London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—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. William Adams will deliver his Presidential Address; Mr. Walter Coulson, "On Lithotomy and Lithotripsy".

TUESDAY.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Douglas Powell, "On some effects of Lung Elasticity in Health and Disease".

THURSDAY.—Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. J. Milner Fothergill, "On Neurosal Affections of the Heart".

FRIDAY.—Medical Microscopical Society, 8 P.M. Dr. W. B. Woodman, "Hints on the Systematic Study of Histology".

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.

PECULIAR ALBUMEN.—We have several further communications on this subject which shall have attention in an early number.

URTICARIA AFTER LIQUOR ARSENICALIS.

SIR.—Perhaps some correspondent of the *JOURNAL* would kindly inform me if he had ever known urticaria result from the administration of the liquor arsenicalis in small doses. A patient of mine, suffering from an eczematous eruption of the face, had taken four drops of the liquor arsenicalis three times a day for three days, when the whole body and limbs became covered with urticaria. The eruption lasted for three days, with night and morning exacerbations, and accompanied by some pyrexia. None of the well known physiological effects of arsenic were present, nor was there any derangement of the stomach or bowels, etc.—Your obedient servant,
M.B.
Gosport, February 9th, 1876.

ORIGIN OF DIPHTHERIA.

SIR.—When reading Dr. Bell's valuable observations on Diphtheria, in the *JOURNAL* of January 29th, I was greatly struck by his remark, "I am not sure but that aphthous ulceration may degenerate into diphtheria". On this point, I think Dr. Bell is right, and that the following case proves his ideas to be correct. Last October, I attended a lady in her confinement, whose infant, when a week old, was attacked with aphthous ulceration of nose, mouth, and pharynx, from which it died early in November. I was in constant attendance, and was daily applying local applications, etc. The very day after this child was buried, I became very ill, and nearly lost my life, through a severe attack of diphtheria. There never was a case in this locality before, and our little country village is peculiarly healthy. No other person got it but myself; neither has any case occurred since. I am prone to believe I got the infection from that case of aphthous ulceration; and I think it bears out Dr. Bell's opinion in a forcible way. I am, sir, yours truly,
A CONSTANT READER.

CORRESPONDENTS are particularly requested by the Editor to observe that communications relating to Advertisements, changes of address, and other business matters, should be addressed to Mr. Francis Fowke, General Secretary and Manager, at the Journal Office, 36, Great Queen Street, W.C., and not to the Editor.

TREATMENT OF EPISTAXIS.

SIR.—The efficacy of the treatment recommended by Mr. Cox, in the *JOURNAL* of February 5th, I can fully endorse in those cases where the loss of blood becomes serious. Last year, an old gentleman under my care, between 70 and 80 years of age, who had periodical attacks of bleeding from the nostrils, which had generally been stopped by plugging, was becoming exhausted from the loss of blood; and, the usual application not succeeding, I mixed equal parts of the tincture of sesquichloride of iron and water, about two drachms of each, and injected it up the nostrils with a glass syringe. This immediately stopped the bleeding. The bleeding, however, should not, I think, be checked too soon: as in most instances it is a provision of nature to relieve the vessels of the head. I have found also syringing with a glass syringe of great benefit in throat-affections, where there is difficulty in using a gargle, especially in children.—Yours, etc.,
Bognor, February 16th, 1876.

JAMES GARDNER.

DR. McD., R.N.—Dr. Robert McCormick, the surgeon and naturalist to the Arctic expedition under Sir J. C. Ross, happily survives. He commenced an open-boat expedition up Wellington Channel in search of Sir J. Franklin. He is a Fellow of the College of Surgeons, of which institution he was admitted a member fifty-four years ago. Of his friend Dr. Richard King, lately deceased, the late Sir Roderick Murchison said: "It is but rendering justice to Dr. King, the former companion of Sir George Bach, to state that he suggested and always maintained the necessity of a search for the missing navigators at or near the mouth of the Back River, where, in fact, the relics of the lost expedition were found." Dr. King was a member of the Court of Examiners of the Society of Apothecaries.

CHARITY ELECTIONEERING.

SIR.—On the 31st of October, 1873, the memorable meeting on charity electioneering was held at the Mansion House—the whole of the London press, with the exception of one weekly paper, supporting the reform party. On that occasion, the reforms which have been ever since consistently advocated by the Charity Voting Reform Association, were clearly put forward, as being the alterations essential in cases where it is still desired to continue the system of voting by the whole body of subscribers. These requisite alterations are few and simple.

1. *Mode of Voting*.—That it be made essential to the validity of a vote that the initials of a voter be placed against the name voted for; that the signature be appended in full, with address and date, and that the voting-paper be returned by the subscriber direct to the secretary of the Charity.

2. *Canvassing*.—That all canvassing by circular, and all personal canvassing by the candidates or representatives, be prohibited, under pain of exclusion from all prospect of benefit, or forfeiture of all benefits if already elected.

3. *Polling Day, etc.*—That the system of polling days, leading to traffic in votes, be discontinued. Subscriptions paid within a short period of the day of election, not to confer the power of voting till the following election.

4. *Comparative Selection*.—That the list of candidates be not excessive in proportion to vacancies, and that admission be the result of comparative selection.

It is a great satisfaction to us to report that the press has proved itself not only a sound guide for public opinion, but also its true exponent. For the result of that great defeat at the Mansion House, amidst noise and violence, has been, up to the present time: 1. The formation of the Charity Voting Reform Association, now counting 4,200 members, amongst whom may be found some of the most distinguished and liberal philanthropists in our land; 2. The adhesion and support of 500 subscribers of the British Orphan Asylum; 3. The same on the part of 1,927 subscribers of the Governors's Benevolent Institution; 4. The same in the case of 2,098 subscribers of the Royal Medical Benevolent College; 5. The same in regard to 675 subscribers to the Friend of the Clergy Corporation (these three last having memorialised their managing committees in favour of reform); 6. The very satisfactory result of the public meeting of the National Orphan Home at the London Tavern on the 24th of last month. On that occasion the following resolutions were proposed and carried by a decided majority of those present, and also of those who sent proxies.

1. "That the public election of candidates from and after the present election be abolished, and that in future all votes, duly filled in and signed, be sent under seal, addressed to the scrutineers at the office, not later than the day before that fixed for the election."

2. "That all canvassing personally, by circular, or card, on the part of the candidates or their relatives, be in future prohibited on pain of forfeiture of all benefits of the institution, and that no addresses be inserted in the list of subscribers unless they desire the same."

3. That money paid on the day of election shall not secure votes at such election."

4. "That the Committee shall regulate the number of candidates in accordance with the vacancies existing and the number to be elected."

On these resolutions being put and carried, several of the poor widows (allowed to be present after the polling) came forward and expressed their thankfulness for the blessing just conferred, by which they and their fellows would be released by this most happy indulgence from the heart-wearing penance to which they had hitherto been doomed. It may be added, that several other institutions have taken steps towards reform in the direction you have indicated, and it is hoped that before long your suggestions and our labours may be crowned with that entire success which not only Christian charity but common humanity demand.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
R. J. SIMPSON, Rector of St. Clement Danes,
Hon. Sec. of Charity Voting Reform Association.

30, Charing Cross, February 5th, 1876.

M.D. (Chelsea Gardens).—Haller and Linnæus both died in 1777; John Hunter not until 1793.

HOUSE-SURGEONS OF PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS.

MR. E. JEPSON (Durham).—It is not easy to fix any limit to the time during which a house-surgeon of a provincial hospital should hold office. An eminent physician now practising in London once held the appointment of resident medical officer to a large county hospital for eighteen years; and, after making while there some valuable contributions to medical science, has since done many years' good work as a hospital physician and clinical teacher in London.