

and pressed on the left of the larynx, producing aphonia. Four needles were introduced, connected with the positive pole, and a power of fourteen cells was employed; the needles being retained within the aneurismal sac for a space of two hours. The tumour soon showed signs of diminution; and in a month's time the voice had returned, and externally there was little evidence of any remaining aneurism. Among the more interesting of the surgical cases, are two patients of Mr. Lund's, in each of whom he has divided both femoral necks for osseous ankylosis at the hip-joint, and in each case succeeded in obtaining good movement and an useful limb. Using Adams's instrument, and operating strictly according to Lister's method, there is little external wound and scarcely any constitutional disturbance. Mr. Lund had also an interesting case of tracheotomy the other day. A young man, playing at "puff and dart", inadvertently, while holding the little tufted dart in his mouth, breathed it into his larynx. Dr. Simpson, who soon afterwards saw the patient, detected the body by means of the laryngoscope, and seized it with laryngeal forceps, but failed to dislodge it. Mr. Lund accordingly opened the trachea, and succeeded in pushing the dart, with his finger passed into the trachea, through the upper aperture of the larynx into the mouth, and so removed it. The patient has made a good recovery.

The meetings of the Medical Society are now held in the Owens College, and have been well attended. The last two meetings have been chiefly occupied by a discussion on pyæmia, raised by a paper of Mr. Bradley's, in which he argued that there were two essentially different types of pyæmia: the one infective, dependent upon bacteria; the other non-infective, in which no bacteria were present, but which was caused by necrosis or other suppurative diseases giving rise to embolism and resultant visceral abscesses. He advocated the employment of ozone as a means of purifying hospital wards, and showed how it could be manufactured in any quantity by means of Tisley's ozone-generator and a Ruhmkopf coil. He also exhibited specimens in Woulff's bottles, with bent tubes attached, of putrescible fluids, kept perfectly clear for a month by having a stream of ozone passed through them. Immediate and complete isolation of all cases of septicæmia and pyæmia was also insisted upon. As in the case of the debate on pyæmia at the Clinical Society, the discussion which followed chiefly served to show that the time had not arrived for authoritatively deciding upon the nature and treatment of the infective process, and that the germ-theory of disease was not universally embraced even by those who, in practice, were followers of Lister.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held at the Office of the Association, 36, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, on Thursday, the 13th day of April next, at Three o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE,
General Secretary.

36, Great Queen Street, London, W.C., March 22nd, 1876.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE fifth ordinary meeting of the session will be held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday evening, April 13th; W. M. CLARKE, Esq., President.

Bath, March 1876. R. S. FOWLER, } *Honorary Secretaries.*
E. C. BOARD, }

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.

THE spring meeting of this Branch will be held in the Library of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Infirmary, on Thursday, April 27th.

Gentlemen who are desirous of reading papers, introducing patients, exhibiting pathological specimens, or making other communications, are requested to signify their intention to the Secretary at their earliest convenience.

G. H. PHILIPSON, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, March 14th, 1876.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT MEETING.

THE second meeting of the nineteenth session 1875-76 was held at Gravesend on March 10th; CHARLES J. W. PINCHING, Esq., in the chair.

Next Meeting.—The next place of meeting will be Dartford, on May 19th; James Chilcot, Esq., to preside.

New Members.—Four gentlemen were elected members of the Association and of the South-Eastern Branch; viz., Herbert L. Bernays, Esq., Chatham; Onslow Richmond, Esq., Gravesend; Robert Dunlop, Esq., Gravesend; C. E. Gray, M.B., Erith.

Papers.—The following papers were read.

1. Observations on General Bleeding as Treatment of Disease. By W. Allingham, Esq.—General bleeding was advocated, agreeably to the directions laid down by Dr. Marshall Hall.

2. The Mechanical and Operative Treatment of Prolapsus Uteri. By A. L. Galabin, M.D.

3. A Case of Compound Fracture of the Skull, in which the Trephine was used. By A. W. Nankivell, Esq.

Dinner.—The members and visitors (eleven in all) dined at the New Falcon Inn.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH: SPRING MEETING.

THE spring meeting of this Branch was held at the Railway Hotel, Taunton, on Thursday, March 16th, at 5 P.M. In the absence, from illness, of the President, G. CORDWENT, M.D., Dr. FARMER, the President-elect, was in the Chair. Fourteen members were present.

The Secretary produced letters of regret from the President and several other members who were prevented from attending.

Treatment of Habitual Drunkards.—The Secretary reported that he had sent the two petitions on the Treatment of Habitual Drunkards to Lord Shaftesbury and Sir Henry James, with letters requesting them to present the petitions respectively to the Houses of Lords and Commons; and he read an answer from Sir Henry James promising to present the petition, and conditionally to support its prayer.

Communications.—The following papers were read, and cases brought forward. 1. Tolerance of Disease. By Dr. Cordwent. The paper was read by the Secretary. 2. Inversion of the Uterus after Childbirth. By Dr. Wybrants. The author stated that the most frequent cause of this accident was improper traction of the funis after the birth of the child; and he insisted on the necessity of prompt action in replacing the inversion, and the danger of any delay. He gave the particulars of three cases, in which he had held inquests on deaths caused by, and almost immediately following, inversion. In two of these, midwives alone had been in attendance, and he considered that the inversion had been caused by traction on the funis. In the third case, a surgeon had seen the patient after the inversion had occurred, but had failed to replace the uterus. Dr. Wybrants had found that nearly all the midwives in his neighbourhood were ignorant and uneducated women, many of them unable to read. He thought no one should be allowed to practise midwifery without a certificate of qualification. An interesting discussion followed the reading of this paper. Mr. Rigden mentioned a case of inversion of the uterus that had been admitted to the Taunton Hospital, in which attempts at replacement had been unsuccessful. 3. Dr. Meredith exhibited some pathological specimens of malignant disease of the pylorus and adjacent viscera, and gave some details of the cases connected with them. 4. Mr. Liddon reported some injurious effects which he had observed from the external use of arnica.

The Medical Defence Association.—A letter was read by the Secretary on the subject of the Medical Defence Association, and he was requested to make inquiries as to the constitution and the mode of working of that Association.

The time available for discussions having now expired, and many members being obliged to leave by train, the question of Village Hospitals was postponed, and the meeting broke up at nine o'clock.

VACCINATION.—Dr. Brookfield has been awarded by the Local Government Board a gratuity of £11:1 for efficient vaccination in the Denby District of the Penistone Union.—Mr. John H. Wraith, public vaccinator for the Darwen District of the Blackburn Union, has received a vaccination grant of £39 5s. This is the second time Mr. Wraith has received the grant.—An award of £46 5s. from the Local Government Board for efficient vaccination was received on the 1st instant by Mr. J. Jackson, public vaccinator for the Harraton District, Chester-le-Street Union, Durham.—Mr. T. T. Blease has received a gratuity (the second) of £22 9s. from the Local Government Board for efficient vaccination, as medical officer of the Altrincham District of the Altrincham Union.—Mr. James T. Reed, public vaccinator for the Ryhope and Tunstall District, Sunderland Union, has been awarded the Government grant of £22 10s., for efficient vaccination in his district. This is the third occasion on which Mr. Reed has been awarded the grant.

instruction that students were able to obtain twenty or thirty years ago in special departments, and partly to certain difficulties in obtaining a satisfactory examination. Again, the patients say that they cannot afford any longer to pay their medical man.

The remedy I would suggest is this; that when a medical practitioner has any doubt about a case, or has been treating a case for some time without obtaining the result which he had hoped, and thinks he sees symptoms of the patient being lost to him, he should be able to obtain the advantage he could at all times command if his patients were rich, viz., a consultation.

I would earnestly submit, therefore, for the consideration of the profession the following plan; that the practitioner should give his patient a slip of paper, or short note, addressed to any hospital out-patient physician or surgeon, asking for his opinion on the case both as to diagnosis and treatment; and I am sure that not only would it never be refused, but the consultant would feel as much honoured by such reference to him as if it were made for a richer patient. This plan would increase the confidence of patients in their ordinary medical attendant, and prevent them from going off on their own account to hospitals. It would decrease the labour of hospital physicians and surgeons. The work would be to them more interesting, and the great evil at present so rife would be materially lessened.

I am, yours faithfully,

Portugal Street, Grosvenor Square.

HEYWOOD SMITH.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday, March 30th, 1876.

Army Medical School.—Mr. G. HARDY, in reply to a question by Mr. O'Leary, said it was not intended to fill up the vacant Professorship in the Army Medical School. The question of the Army Medical School would be submitted to the Senate under the new Act, and, until he had heard what they proposed, it was not proposed to fill up the Professorship now vacant.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

LECTURES ON ANATOMY.—Professor Humphry gives notice that his course of lectures on the Muscular System of Man and other Vertebrates will commence on Wednesday, May 3rd, at 1 P.M., and be continued on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Members of the anatomical class and students not requiring certificates may attend without fee.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen passed their primary examinations in anatomy and physiology at a meeting of the Board of Examiners on the 3rd instant; and, when eligible, will be admitted to the pass-examination.

Messrs. Warwick L. Child, Charles R. Graham, Alfred E. Chambers, and Hector Leak, students of the Manchester School; Thomas L. Hall, Samuel A. Welch, George J. Lloyd, and Alfred Swann, of the Birmingham School; John D. T. Reckitt, Percy Close, Edward C. Thompson, and Godfrey Carter, of the Leeds School; Thomas H. Bickerton, Charles E. Steele, Thomas M. Porter, and William H. Owen, of the Liverpool School; Charles Mc J. Goyder, William J. Sweet, Thomas M. Young, and Joseph E. Gofton, of the Newcastle School; Henry L. Gilbert, William F. Scott, and Alex. D. Blackader, of the McGill School; Milton M. Tucker, and Donald B. Fraser, of the Toronto School; Alfred Patron, of the Montpellier School; David W. B. Wilkie, of the Melbourne School; Vere G. Webb, of the Glasgow School; Charles B. Carter, of St. George's Hospital; Henry J. Skelding, of University College; and Wm. W. Edwardes, of St. Mary's Hospital.

At this meeting, the lately elected member of the Board, Mr. John Whitaker Hulke, F.R.S., took his seat as an examiner.

The following gentlemen passed on the 4th instant.

Messrs. Richard C. Birch, Arthur W. Cadman, Frederick Wilson, James Deakin, William F. Chadwick, John T. Faulkner, and John Hodgson, students of the Manchester School; L. Frederick Cox, Valentine Matthews, and Charles E. Baddeley, of King's College; Leonard A. Hine, Albert S. McCausland, and Edward A. Fardon, of the Middlesex Hospital; Wm. M. Ball, and Wm. M. Batson, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Gordon B. W. Messum, and John F. Tabb, of Guy's Hospital; Richard Margerison, B.A. Cantab., and Frederick N. Ozanne, of St. George's Hospital; Robert P. Smith, and Mark P. M. Collier, of St. Thomas's Hospital; Frederick B. Fisher, and John M. Atkinson, of the London Hospital; George H. Hetherington, and Henry Pearce, of St. Mary's Hospital; John H. Vinrace, of the Birmingham School; Wm. E. L. Batly, of the Liverpool School; Alfred A. Lendon, of University College; and Horace Elliott, of the Westminster Hospital.

The following gentlemen passed on the 5th instant.

Messrs. Charles J. Bamber, George H. Patterson, Newcome W. Bourns, Albert W. Graham, Charles J. Vlieland, Charles B. Lockwood, and George W. P. Dennys, students of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; John S. Hall, William E. Woodman, Henry J. Michael, George A. Macdonald, John Shaw, and Hutton Castle, of St. Thomas's Hospital; Marmaduke J. Hart, Edward J. Morley, Thomas W. Fuller, Robert Parry, and Alfred E. Maylard, of Guy's Hospital; James S. N. Boyd, and Bilton Pollard, of University College; Edwd. Jennings, and Wm. A. Shann, of St. George's Hospital; Morton A. Smale, of St. Mary's Hospital; John M. D. Stewart, of the Middlesex Hospital; and George A. Batchelor, of the London Hospital.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, March 30th, 1876.

Berdoe, Edward, 56, Victoria Park Road
Boodle, George Adolphus, St. George's Road, St. John's Wood
Casson, Herbert James, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Clark, John George, West Hartlepool
Griffiths, Gilbert Saunders, Argyll Road, Kensington
Prideaux, Thomas Engledeue Pegamus, Blackheath
Sellon, John William Gore, Budleigh Salterton, Devon
Smith, William Henry, Sibsey, Lincolnshire
Stelfox, John Brideoake, Middleton, near Manchester
Thompson, Edmund John, Appleby Magna, Leicester

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

Brown, John Alexander, King's College
Gamble, Ernest Langwith G., St. Thomas's Hospital
Hawkins, Caesar Frederick, London Hospital
Keer, John Cordy, Guy's Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

ESSEX LUNATIC ASYLUM—Second Assistant Medical Officer and Dispenser. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to Dr. Campbell, Medical Superintendent, County Asylum, Brentwood, Essex.

HUDDERSFIELD UNION—Medical Officer for the Huddersfield South District.

LEAMINGTON HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to the Secretary on or before the 26th April.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL—Honorary Surgeon. Applications to the Committee on or before 18th April.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL, W.—Physician. Applications to the Weekly Board before 12 o'clock noon on any Tuesday.—Assistant Physician. Applications on or before May 16th.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL—Assistant Surgeon, and Apothecary. Applications to the Treasurer, Hospital Counting House, Westminster Bridge.

WALSINGHAM UNION—Medical Officer for the Fakenham District.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

ANDERSON, Alexander, M.B., appointed Junior House-Surgeon to the Huddersfield Infirmary, *vice* E. A. Wright, M.B.

BOURKE, William, M.B., appointed House-Surgeon to the Clinical Hospital and Dispensary for Children, Manchester, *vice* W. Tonge-Smith, M.R.C.S. Eng., resigned.

EVANS, George H., M.D., appointed Assistant Physician to the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, *vice* A. B. Shepherd, M.B., appointed Physician.

M'DIARMID, John, M.B., appointed Medical Tutor at the University of Durham College of Medicine, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, *vice* J. Keoch, M.B., resigned.

MILLSON, George, L.R.C.P. Lond., appointed Medical Superintendent of the new Northamptonshire Lunatic Asylum.

PHILIP, James A., M.B., appointed Resident Medical Superintendent of the Lincoln County Lunatic Asylum, *vice* F. D. Walsh, L.R.C.S. Ed., resigned.

WILDING, William A., L.K.Q.C.P.I., appointed House-Surgeon to the Borough Hospital, Birkenhead, *vice* D. Wardrop, M.B., resigned.

WILLIAMSON, W. H., M.B., appointed Surgeon-Dentist to the Aberdeen Dispensary.

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.

KISCH—DAVISON.—On March 21st, Albert Kisch, of 46, Portsdown Road, Maida Hill, and 2, Circus Place, Finsbury Circus, to Annie, daughter of Mr. Ellis A. Davidson, of Clarendon Gardens, Maida Hill.

DEATH.

TEALE.—On April 1st, at 2, Belvoir Terrace, Scarborough, Robert Canning, eldest son of John W. Teale, M.A., F.R.C.S.

THE Will, dated November 28th, 1875, of Henry Hardinge, M.D., late of No. 18, Grafton Street, who died on January 28th last, was proved on the 15th ult., by William Money Hardinge, the son, Miss Jane Elizabeth Hardinge, the daughter, and William Henry Hatcher, the acting executors, the personal estate being sworn under £25,000. The testator gives the residue of his property, in equal moieties, to his said son and daughter.

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. Knowsley Thornton, "On the Surgical Aspects of Pelvic Hæmatocele"; Dr. Semple, "On the Pathology and Treatment of Cerebral Diseases".

TUESDAY.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Gowers, "On the Development of Spindle-cells in Nestal Sarcoma".

WEDNESDAY.—Epidemiological Society, 8 P.M. Dr. Sternberg, "On Recent Epidemics of Yellow Fever in the United States of America"—Hunterian Society. Council Meeting at 7.30 P.M. General Meeting at 8 P.M., when Dr. Pye-Smith will bring forward a Case of Syphilitic Disease of the Trachea and other Organs; also, Dr. Sutton will bring forward some Observations on Anorexia.

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

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.

R. H. L.—The object of the Medical Acts Amendment Bill which has been reintroduced this year, is to make the M.D. degree of three or four leading foreign universities registerable when taken by women. It has, however, no chance of passing. We have already commented upon it.

INVENTION OF THE VALISE EQUIPMENT.

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to a reprint in the *Hampshire Independent* of March 29th, of a *résumé* of the life and works of the late Professor Parkes of Netley, which recently appeared in your columns, and in which you say: "Among his most important labours were the invention and perfecting of the new valise equipment." I am pained to be compelled to say one word which could seem in the slightest degree to detract from the lustre of so noble a name; but while to the worthy Doctor the country is principally indebted for the untiring patience by which he ultimately overcame "the prejudice of those who were inclined to think that what the new arrangement gained in comfort it lacked in soldierly appearance", I am, and have always claimed to be, the sole inventor of the valise equipment; and, in order to avoid being placed in a false position, I have no alternative but to request you will kindly correct this error, by inserting this in your next issue, and oblige.—I have the honour to be, sir, yours respectfully, Woolstone, April 5th, 1876. W. A. PEIRCE.

LIGATURE AND TORSION OF ARTERIES.

SIR,—I read with surprise, in your last week's issue, these words from Mr. Callender, as given in his Lectures on Clinical Precision: "My preference is now, as formerly, for torsion; but as time presses on our operation days, I use, as occupying less of it, the catgut-ligatures." Does Mr. Callender mean to say that it takes him longer to sever an artery with the torsion-forceps, and give it half-a-dozen twists, than it does to apply a catgut-ligature? I think at Guy's Hospital the teaching would be the reverse. Moreover, Mr. Callender prefers torsion, and presumably, because he has found secondary hæmorrhage less frequent than after ligature. If this be so (and I may again refer to Guy's Hospital, where secondary hæmorrhage, since the introduction of torsion, has been almost unheard of), is he justified in using the ligature, even supposing it does save just a particle of time?—I am, sir, yours, etc. J. F. FRY.

March 25th, 1876.

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.

DEATH-CERTIFICATES AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

SIR,—Under the above heading I have just perused a comment in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* on an unfortunate case where a practitioner, having given a wrong certificate of cause of death, was *found out*. How many medical men do the same, and are never found out! Some, perhaps, may do it from the same motives that inspired that member of the profession, but many do it from mere indifference or carelessness. I remember the time when I took particular pains in filling my certificates properly, even to the duration of the disease, etc.; but, learning from experience that they received not the consideration which I deemed they deserved, gradually and almost unconsciously I fell into a lax method of writing them; and, no doubt, had inquests been held on several of my cases, I probably would have been placed in the very uncomfortable position in which that member of the profession has been placed, and my certificates found to coincide neither with my diagnosis of the case during life, nor with the real cause of death. This may appear very strange; but, in point of fact, it is a very common occurrence, as these certificates are looked on by many medical men as documents, not—as may have been the original intention—to find out accurately, for the benefit of the community at large, the real causes of death, and in some measure as a preventative of crime, but merely to serve, in some cases, as conveniences for the relations of the deceased to facilitate registration.

Two cases have recently occurred in my practice, very opposite in characters, which prove to my mind the farce of the thing, at least as it at present exists. They are briefly as follows.

I was called on to see an illegitimate baby, in the care of its aunt; it was very emaciated, and suffering from diarrhoea. Having had some experience in treating illegitimate children unsuccessfully, I tried to lift out the real cause, when I discovered that its food—although there was no lack of milk—consisted of corn-flour beaten up in water, seemingly not more than a teaspoonful to the quart. The aunt admitted that it had got nothing else for over a fortnight, not having even once tasted milk or any other food during that time. It died a few hours afterwards, and I explained the cause of death, telling the woman she was culpable. About a week or so afterwards, I was called on for a certificate, the applicant informing me that the death had been registered on the faith of their sending my certificate, and that the baby was buried. I gave one of starvation, and heard no more about it. Did the Registrar alter my certificate to correspond with his registry, or his registry to correspond with my certificate? He must necessarily have done one or the other. If he put starvation in the entry, would there ever be any notice taken of it by the Registrar-General or any other person? or is the Registrar allowed to pass over *in silentio* any certificate even though it should be "poisoning by arsenic"? If ever a case of baby-farming occurred, this was one, and should have been treated accordingly.

Some mornings afterwards, I was called out early to see a woman who was found dead in bed. She was about forty-five years of age, had always been strong and healthy, and never had sickness serious enough to necessitate the advice of a medical man. She was at a tea-party the evening before, and went to bed in her usual health; death occurred during the night, and was witnessed by no one. Having declined to certify as to the cause of death, I referred the relations to the coroner, who in turn directed them to that all-important personage the Registrar; and he so negotiated the matter, that the woman was buried without certificate, inquest, or inquiry, contrary to the expectations of both the relations and myself, and without dishonour to herself or any other person.

Why, then, I ask, should medical men be required to be so particular about those certificates, a work for which they are not remunerated, and, more than that, a work which is seemingly neither appreciated nor valued as it should be? If my certificates were treated as if they were of some value or importance: if cases attended by me were unregistrable without them; and if certificate, inquest, or inquiry were indispensable in cases of sudden or suspicious death, then would I have an interest in their accuracy; and then, and not till then, will I understand, to the "best of my knowledge and belief", in a literal sense, or implying more than, as has been recently shown, "value received" does upon a bill of exchange—a mere matter of form, a myth.—I am, yours truly, R. A. E.

March 1st, 1876.

MR. MASON should write to the General Secretary, at 36, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

A CIRCULAR.

WE commend the following circular, of which a copy has been forwarded to us, to the attention of the Medical Defence Association.

"*Boom to the Working Classes*.—Dr. Young (Unregistered), Physician and Surgeon, thirty years' practical experience, High Street, Chelmsford: Surgery, Tindal Street.—Dr. Young takes this opportunity of making known to the inhabitants of Chelmsford that he has commenced practice at the above address, and, from the immense success which rewarded his labours when in practice here seven years ago, leaves no doubt of the reception which awaits him when his arrival becomes generally known. The earnest and loudly expressed sentiments of gratitude which were bestowed upon him, unasked, by the honest and hard-working operatives, who are the backbone of the town and the best judges of skill and experience, may faithfully depend upon Dr. Young's unremitting energy at all times to aid their necessities, and cure when others fail.—Dr. Young's opinion on disease is considered the best in England. No one should suffer without consulting Dr. Young personally or by letter. Visits paid in town or country. At home from nine, mornings; till nine, evenings, unless called out.—Dr. Young can give a certificate of death or otherwise. Dr. Young is M.D. of a foreign university obtained long before the passing of the Medical Registration Act. This university prefers the distinction of not being enrolled by Act of Parliament, as they grant no license to kill, but to cure. Boys are not admitted to examination at this university, as in England, and permitted by law and license to traffic with human life, and send medicines of which they know nothing to be poured into a stomach they know less of. Fortunately, registration is no guarantee of skill, or even one iota of knowledge of the profession. Does it not shock you to learn that a youth twenty-one years of age is admitted to full practice, with a license to kill or cure?—N.B. The diseases of children particularly attended to."

SIR,—Is a medical man forced by law to give evidence before a jury, if summoned by the coroner? An answer will oblige. Yours truly, H. G. C.

* * * Yes.

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.

SAFFRON WALDEN UNION.

SIR.—Kindly give your valuable opinion upon the following. For more than twenty-five years our senior partner has held the workhouse and district No. 6 of this union, and twelve months ago, to oblige the guardians, accepted No. 5 district, which Mr. Stear of this town refused to take, although it adjoined his parishes, whilst I have held No. 7 district for the last seven or eight years. A third partner having joined our firm, we desire to free the senior of parish work, and thereupon the senior calls upon the clerk to the guardians and explains our wishes. The clerk says, "By writing to the Local Government Board, he believes the workhouse and Nos. 5 and 6 can be transferred to myself, whilst No. 7 can go to the junior partner". Thus on January 5th we resign our appointments, I applying for the workhouse and Nos. 5 and 6, to which I have been deputy for the last ten years, and the junior partner applied for No. 7. On the Board day (January 7th), the clerk gives no intimation to the guardians of the advice he gave the senior partner, and it is decided to advertise the workhouse, and Nos. 5 and 6 districts only. On January 14th, before the advertisement had appeared, I find Mr. Stear, who is a Poor-law medical officer, together with his party, had made a most determined canvass of the guardians, including several of my patients, to be appointed to the workhouse only. As I did not intend to make any canvass—and that because I was daily expecting a communication from the clerk, saying the appointments would be transferred on March 25th to myself and the junior—I was now compelled to send a few lines to each guardian, stating distinctly the terms upon which Mr. Welsh had resigned, and asking for their support. I was, however, too late in my canvass, so my senior partner called upon Mr. Stear, and explained his object in resigning, the advice given to him by the clerk, and that now he intended to withdraw his resignation, and hoped Mr. Stear would withdraw his application. Mr. Stear refusing to do this, I retired from the contest, whilst my partner withdrew his resignation—which the Board did not accept—and applied to be appointed to the workhouse, and districts 5 and 6, as before.

On March 3rd, Mr. Stear was appointed to the workhouse, my senior partner to No. 5 districts, and No. 7 district was given to our junior partner. I only add that our firm could not accept these appointments, whilst its companion of so many years—the workhouse—was held by Mr. Stear. Has Mr. Stear acted with professional etiquette in this matter?—I am, sir, yours obediently,

Saffron Walden, April 3rd, 1876.

EDWARD HARLEY.

*. It will be proper to hear Mr. Stear's version of the case, as it affects him.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS.—The result of the half-yearly examination of candidates in Arts, etc., for the diplomas of Fellowship and Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons, has just been communicated to these gentlemen, and doubtless many will be surprised at the result, as out of the 134 who went in for membership, only 69 passed; for the Fellowship it was better, as out of 33 candidates only four were rejected.

THE MIDWIFERY DIPLOMA.

SIR,—I beg to call your attention to (as I read them) the very serious results of the late opinion of the Council of the College of Surgeons as to this diploma. From that I gather that any one of either sex can, after a partial curriculum and an examination in this subject only, obtain this diploma. Prior to this, and certainly when I took it, I believe that none but members of the College were eligible for it. Now, I do not at all object to any one, after due examination, etc., obtaining a certificate of competency in this or any other branch of the profession. But I think one most important point has been overlooked, viz., that the license of midwifery of London entitles the holder to claim to have his name inserted in the *Medical Register*; and, from judicial decisions, it appears that if any one once become a registered practitioner, he or she is able to practise in any branch of the profession, and to sign death or other certificates, and practically to call themselves by any title (such as doctor or surgeon) they may like, the only title the assumption of which brings any penalty being that of registered practitioner.

This is a point which is very important; and I trust, therefore, the Council of the College will take steps either to have the licentiate of midwifery removed (for the future) from the list of diplomas entitling the holder to registration, or see that it is not conferred on any one not holding another qualification.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

JOHN WOODMAN (F.R.C.S. (by exam.), and Lic. Mid. Lond.,

Hon. Sec. S.W. Branch Brit. Med. Association.

2, Chichester Place, Exeter, March 4th, 1876.

DR. G. BIRT (Stourbridge).—The leaders on "Action and Inaction," the "Action of Diuretics," and other therapeutical summaries from the same pen, which have appeared in past numbers of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, are about to be republished as chapters in a volume under the name of the author, Dr. Milner Fothergill, by Messrs. Macmillan and Co.

THE ACTION OF GELSEMINUM SEMPERVIRENS.

SIR,—Would any of your readers be kind enough to say if, in their use of the tincture of gelseminum, they have noticed any of the following peculiar symptoms which occurred to me in a case in which I used it for severe neuralgia: Great drowsiness and depression, with binocular vision, and what the patient described as "a cloud over her eyes, which kept going and coming every five minutes". During these symptoms the circulation was tranquil, the pulse being normal. The above symptoms continued for about four hours, when she recovered, and, as she said, "all right again". The neuralgia disappeared while suffering from the above symptoms, to return again on their cessation.

I shall be happy to hear from some of your readers their experience in the use of this drug.—I remain, faithfully yours,

ALPHA.

The attention of the Edinburgh Colleges ought, we think, to be directed to the following.

"The New Scientific Mode of Extracting Cancer and Tumours without the administration of chloroform, or even the aid of the amputating knife, with an account of seventeen examples of the improved treatment, which have been selected from one hundred and fifty-four cases, out of which number only five recurrences of the disease have taken place; and nine patients, whose maladies were hopeless to commence with, have (under this process) been very greatly benefited." By Dennis Turnbull, M.D., LL.D., Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Edinburgh. Post free for thirteen stamps of the author, 10, Cambray, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. For full particulars, see the pamphlet.—N.B. Under this treatment, patients aged seventy years and upwards have been enabled to sleep well and enjoy their daily walks. A stamped envelope will secure special references to persons who have been cured."

THE SOCIETY OF SURGEONS PRACTISING DENTAL SURGERY.

SIR,—The attention of the profession has been directed in the *JOURNAL* to the formation of a society composed of surgeons practising dentistry. Some expression of satisfaction has already been accorded to this very evident advance in an important department of surgery. It is unnecessary to point out what a great advantage it will be to society at large to have men of good medical education engaged in the practice of dentistry; and we cannot, I think, encourage too much every attempt which is made of this nature, as it must tend to the improvement of the whole profession. Now that anaesthetics are used generally in dental surgery, it is most desirable that every dental surgeon should be acquainted with the principles of medical science.—I am, yours obediently,

March 1876.

A HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN.

A MEMBER B.M.A.—The late Sir John Cordy Burrows left an only child, Mr. Seymour Burrows, B.A. Oxon., M.R.C.S. Eng., who received his professional education at St. George's Hospital.

DR. ALFORD.—The report has been handed to us, and shall appear.

DR. BRADSHAW.—The articles seem to us quite unobjectionable from a professional point of view, and likely to be of public service. We hope he will include a demonstration of the sanitary value of vaccination.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The *Macclesfield Guardian*; The *Western Mail*; The *Preston Guardian*; The *South Wales Daily News*; The *Clomel Chronicle*; The *Lincolnshire Chronicle*; The *Western Morning News*; The *Cork Daily Herald*; The *Colchester Journal*; The *Northampton Herald*; The *Globe*; The *Bolton Weekly Journal*; The *Cambeltown Courier*; The *Hastings and St. Leonard's Independent*; The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*; Saunders's *News-Letter*; The *Tenby Advertiser*; The *Eastern Daily Press*; The *Craven Pioneer*; The *Worcester Chronicle*; The *Nottingham Daily Guardian*; The *Brighton Examiner*; The *Edinburgh Evening News*; The *People's Weekly Journal*; The *West Sussex Gazette*; The *Durham Chronicle*; The *Brighton Herald*; The *Brighton Daily News*; The *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette*; The *Glasgow Herald*; The *Metropolitan*; The *Hastings and St. Leonard's Chronicle*; The *Mining World*; The *Birmingham Daily Post*; The *Sussex Daily News*; The *Liverpool Daily Courier*; etc.

*. We shall be greatly obliged if correspondents forwarding newspapers will kindly mark the passages to which it is desired to direct attention.

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

Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, London; Dr. Broadbent, London; Dr. Joseph Bell, Edinburgh; Dr. George Johnson, London; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Dr. W. H. Dickinson, London; Dr. J. B. Bradbury, Cambridge; Dr. A. B. Shepherd, London; Dr. W. Dickson, London; Dr. Douglas Powell, London; Mr. Wm. Fairlie Clarke, London; Dr. Finlayson, Glasgow; Dr. Coghill, Ventnor; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; Dr. J. Milner Fothergill, London; Dr. Edis, London; The Registrar-General of England; Mr. Eastes, London; Dr. Brown, Rochester; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Dr. Tuckwell, Oxford; Mr. W. Egan, Dublin; Dr. G. Lund, Camberwell; Dr. William Squire, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. Mackey, Birmingham; The Secretary of the Hunterian Society; Dr. C. Theodore Williams, London; Mr. Richard Davy, London; Dr. Farquharson, London; X. Y. Z.; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; An Associate; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; The Secretary of the Epidemiological Society; Mr. E. Nettleship, London; Dr. Thin, London; Mr. Berkeley Hill, London; Our Manchester Correspondent; Dr. Brookfield, Clayton, Huddersfield; Dr. Galabin, London; Mr. Johnson Smith, Greenwich; Mr. Wm. Mac Cormac, London; Dr. Grosholz, Manchester; Dr. Young, Florence; Mr. G. Meadows, Hastings; A Medical Practitioner; Mr. Leonard Armstrong, Newton Abbott; Dr. Syson, Huntingdon; Dr. J. Burdon Sanderson, London; M.D.; Dr. Saundby, London; Mr. T. Brown, London; Dr. Bruce Low, Helmsley; Mr. Smith, Great Yarmouth; Mr. Speedy, Dublin; R. H. L.; Mr. Balmanno Squire, London; Dr. Heath, Preston; Dr. Brazabon, Bath; Messrs. J. and A. Churchill, London; Mr. Maycock, Leamington; W. R. W.; Dr. Thudichum, London; Mr. Lowndes, Liverpool; Mr. Edward Harley, Saffron Walden; Dr. Downes, London; Dr. Damer, Hastings; Mr. S. Messenger Bradley, Manchester; Dr. Tripe, London; Mr. F. Gordon Brown, London; Mr. H. G. Cartwright, Bugbrooke; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Dr. Ramsay, York; Mr. Bleasdale, Altrincham; Our Belfast Correspondent; Mr. Hughes, London; Mr. W. R. Graves, London; Mr. Wraith, Over Darwen; Mr. Downey, Loughborough; Mr. Jackson, Great Usforth; Mr. Vincent Jackson, Wolverhampton; Dr. H. Alford, Taunton; Mr. Frank Wilton, London; Mr. Humphry, London; Dr. Gross, Philadelphia; Dr. Lanchester, Croydon; Mr. Clover, London; Dr. J. Ewens, Clifton; Mr. Hunt, Leicester; Mr. Hamilton Cartwright, London; A Member; Mr. James T. Reed, Sunderland; and etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

On Certain Endemic Skin and other Diseases of India and Hot Climates generally. By Tilbury Fox M.D., F.R.C.P., and T. Farquhar, M.D. Including Notes on Pellagra, etc., by H. V. Carter, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1876.

A Class Book of Chemistry on the Basis of the New System. By Edward L. Youmans, M.D. London: Henry S. King and Co. 1876.

Lithotomy and Extraction of Stone. By W. Poulett Harris, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1876.

Diseases of the Urinary Organs. By Sir Henry Thompson. Fourth Edition. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1876.

American Clinical Lectures. By E. C. Seguin, M.D. Volume I. London: Sampson Low and Co. 1876.

Quain's Elements of Anatomy. Eighth Edition. Volume II. London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1876.