

jovial countenance, to such perfection, that few recognised him. Father Christmas had his snowball filled with presents, and gave one to each patient, with a fitting remark. As the procession entered the various wards, it was greeted by the nurses from the Nightingale Home, who at once began singing carols and cheerful songs, in which many of the students present took a part. The wards were quite in character with the whole performance, the Christmas decorations showing great taste on the part of the sisters. To wind up the entertainment, Father Christmas was wheeled down the long corridor with his snowball, amidst the cheers of all assembled.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE third ordinary meeting of the Session will be held at the Royal Hotel, Bristol, on Thursday evening, January 18th, at half-past Seven o'clock: H. F. A. GOODRIDGE, M.D., President.

The evening will be devoted to the discussion of the subject of the Treatment of Acute Rheumatism, which will be opened by Dr. Skeritt. Speakers will be limited to ten minutes each on discussion.

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

7, Caledonia Place, Clifton, January 9th, 1877.

MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE third monthly meeting of this Branch will be held at the house of the President, Joseph White, Esq., Oxford Street, Nottingham, on Friday, January 19th, 1877.

Coffee at 7.30 P.M.

Paper on Practical Disinfection by Dr. Seaton, Medical Officer of Health for Nottingham, at 8 P.M.

L. W. MARSHALL, M.D., *Hon. Local Secretary.*
Nottingham, December 17th, 1876.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ORGANISATION OF CHARITY IN HOSPITALS.

III.

SIR,—As you kindly allow me some further space in your columns for a few of the more important facts which I have been able to collect respecting the abuse of out-patient relief in London hospitals, I will endeavour to illustrate, by some additional details, one or two of the statements which were contained in my first letter, and especially those which relate to the magnitude and cost of medical charity in general, and the excessive and unnecessary crowding of the majority of out-patient departments.

It may be remembered that I quoted an approximate estimate, according to which it appeared that, exclusive of Poor-law patients, about twenty-five per cent. of the metropolitan population were, during each single year, in receipt of gratuitous medical relief. It may, however, be remarked that even this calculation, unless it be illustrated by other figures, fails to give an idea, by any means adequate, of the enormous scale upon which medical relief is administered, or of the immense aggregate of cases which are annually dealt with at some of the leading hospitals. If we take, as the basis of our investigation, a tabular statement which was carefully prepared in 1873 from the current reports of the principal London hospitals, and, in a few cases where these could not be obtained, from Low's *Handbook to the Charities of London*, we find that there are twenty-four hospitals whose annual number of out-patients exceeded; at that date, 10,000 *per annum*; and that, of these, the Charing Cross Hospital had 15,928; the Dental, 16,539; the German, 16,347; the Great Northern, 23,655; Guy's, 85,000; King's College, 33,111; the London, 64,285; the Metropolitan Free, 30,624; the Middlesex, 20,471; the North London, 17,263; the Royal London Ophthalmic, 18,700; the Royal Free, 46,392; St. Bartholomew's (including Home at Highgate), 100,000; St. George's, 18,612; St. Mary's, 20,783; St. Thomas's, 66,000; the West London, 20,240; and the Westminster, 25,279. Adding to these the out-patients of the other hospitals mentioned in the statement, we obtain a total of 830,519; and, if we add to this the total number of in-patients, which exceeds 58,000; the number of patients at the principal London dispensaries, which is upwards of 253,000; and the

moderate allowance of about 1,300 in-patients, and 55,000 out-patients, for eleven hospitals and six dispensaries which are not included in the return, the grand total is swelled to 1,200,000. Either, then, some very false statistics are contained in the reports of these hospitals, or else the total above given must be accepted as approximately correct. And this total becomes the more alarming when we reflect that it refers mainly to the year 1872 (while the out-patients at eight hospitals alone have been known to increase by more than 43,000 in a single year); that it excludes the various patients whose medical treatment is paid for by the Poor-law, or by private benevolence; and, lastly, that, out of the total number of persons who would resort in sickness to hospitals and dispensaries, only a certain proportion would have occasion to do so in any single year. Quite as striking, however, are the estimates which have been made as to the cost of this vast system of medical charity. According to a calculation, of which it is impossible in the present letter to give the method of or the details, but which is also derived chiefly from the reports for 1872 of the London hospitals and free dispensaries, the total annual income of these institutions, not including the value of land and buildings, amounted in round numbers to £600,000, of which £568,000 belonged to the hospitals alone; and if to this £600,000 we add £41,031 expended in the same year by the Poor-law in ordinary medical relief; £24,817 expended by the Metropolitan Asylum Board on small-pox and fever hospitals; £65,857 expended by private charity on lunatics, idiots, and imbeciles; and £262,673 expended on the same classes of patients by the Metropolitan Asylum Board and other Poor-law authorities; we find that the total amount contributed, either compulsorily or by charity, for the gratuitous relief of those mentally and physically afflicted amounted, in that year and in London alone, to upwards of £994,000, or nearly one million pounds. That is to say, taking the population of the police circle, which is the largest of all metropolitan areas, and estimating it at 3,939,466 or in round numbers four millions, we discover that three shillings per head on this population are annually spent on the voluntary gratuitous medical relief of persons not afflicted by mental disease; a sum which, if divided among its 1,200,000 recipients, would yield ten shillings a head to each of them. Yet the Poor-law medical relief of those not afflicted by mental disease costs only fourpence per head on the same population, and in Manchester, where the excess and abuse of medical charity have been so thoroughly exposed by Mr. O'Hanlon, the sum expended in voluntary gratuitous medical relief amounts to only one shilling and fourpence halfpenny per head on the population, and, if divided among the recipients, would yield only six shillings and fourpence three farthings to each of them.

Some apology may seem to be needed for the introduction into the present letter of figures which only partially relate to out-patients and out-patient departments; but if the abuses against which these letters are especially directed are to be adequately appreciated, it seems to me highly necessary that we should have some idea of that enormous expenditure of which the out-patient departments have caused so large a portion, and that we should be aware of the extraordinary extravagance which pervades the whole administration of so many of the medical charities.

It has been remarked, in an article in the *Westminster Review* (to which we are indebted for many of the foregoing figures), that, unless the average weekly cost of each in-patient in the London hospitals exceeds, in spite of the fact that such patients are required to provide their own clothing, the weekly cost of each inmate in the magnificent asylum at Earlswood (as returned in 1865) then the sum which remains for the relief of out-patients amounts to 7s. 10¼d. per head; whereas the cost of each patient at three important London dispensaries has been estimated at 2s. 10¼d., 1s. 4¼d., and 8¼d. respectively. And, again, the unnecessarily munificent expenditure of at least one great endowed hospital is shown by the facts that, dividing the expenditure of capital by the number of beds, each bed at St. Thomas's has been estimated to cost £833, while each bed at the Poplar Hospital costs only £30; and that the six hundred beds at St. Thomas's, cost a sum nearly equal to that expended by the Metropolitan Asylum Board in providing six separate hospitals, containing collectively 4,271 beds.

Lastly, as to overcrowding and hasty prescribing or operating, I will quote a few figures which appear to me nearly as remarkable. According to statements in the *Lancet*, one physician at St. Bartholomew's has been required to prescribe, in a single morning, for 125 men, and another, on the same occasion, for 164 women and 62 children; and, in the same hospital, 120 patients have been dismissed in one hour and ten minutes, or at the rate of thirty-five seconds each. At the Royal Free Hospital, Mr. Hill has seen 208 patients in four hours and ten minutes; and Dr. O'Connor 318 patients in three hours and twenty minutes, or at the rate of thirty-seven seconds each; while, on another day, Mr. Hill saw 240 patients in two hours and fifty minutes; Dr.

spectable civil members of the profession who are thus employed only knew the injury and injustice they are inflicting on their unlucky *confrères* in the public service, they would hesitate before offering their services to the Government at the petty remuneration which so many of them accept.

One word to the unfortunate classes, who from necessity or choice are being deluded by the bait temptingly held out in the shape of £1,000 after ten years' service in unhealthy climates. If they would like to know how many of them are ever likely to reap the reward, or even a moiety of it, let them consult an actuary, or any of the insurance companies, as to the value of life in India, where they would pass the whole, if not the greater part of their service; and let them ask themselves how a valetudinarian, even with £1,000 in his pocket, could undertake the drudgery of private practice, for which a military life is ill calculated to fit them. With regard to the unpopularity of the service, it is not far to seek, and can be confirmed by every old officer in it, viz., the notorious breaches of faith on the part of the Horse Guards and War Office to the medical officers, and the utter impossibility of obtaining redress for well known grievances. As an old officer who has suffered from all these causes, I feel it is my duty to raise a warning voice to those who contemplate entering the public service of the Army Medical Department under the present system.—I am, sir, yours, etc.

A RETIRED ARMY SURGEON.

London, December 7th, 1876.

MILITIA SURGEONS.

SIR,—I am sure the letter of the "Non-Militia Surgeon", in your impression of December 30th, gives expression to the opinions of a great number of your readers. I myself have thought that the claims for compensation of the militia surgeons are of the weakest kind, and that Mr. Hardy's answer to them fully met the case, when he gave them to understand that he did not feel himself justified "in submitting to Parliament a vote for the grant of compensation for any reduction they may have sustained in their emoluments by the adoption of the measures prescribed by the recent Royal Warrant".

The professional classes bear a considerable part in the burden of taxation, and it does seem something like sarcasm to ask a struggling practitioner who can hardly make ends meet to assist in compensating his more favoured brethren for the loss of a few of the perquisites of appointments which cost them neither money nor examination to obtain, and which have been instrumental in opening up to many of them practice and influence otherwise unattainable except by purchase.

I beg to remain, sir, your obedient servant,

January 1st, 1877.

A JUNIOR SURGEON.

ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,—In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of January 6th, under the head of Military and Naval Medical Services, is given the substance of a general order just issued from the Horse Guards, by which medical officers are relieved from paying contributions and subscriptions to regimental messes and bands. This, under the existing organisation of the medical service, is but an act of justice, and is another step towards making this branch of the army a strictly departmental one. At the same time, however, that this order was issued, another appeared in the form of an army circular, granting to all medical officers staff allowances, but, when they reside in barracks, they are only to be given *regimental* quarters. In accordance with existing orders, officers of the staff and all other departments, including those of the Army Hospital Corps, are given a larger number of rooms than regimental officers, so that they may take their meals in their quarters if they choose, rather than go to a mess to which they do not belong. Why, then, while such a decided step is taken towards making the medical service a strictly departmental one, as is done by the general order, should it not also be given the advantages in the matter of quarters, the same as every other department? This is far from being an imaginary grievance. For, while the circular referred to states that medical officers are to have staff allowances, it will mostly occur that the number of rooms allowed by regulation to regimental officers will be found for them in barracks, and they will seldom, therefore, have the advantage of the staff allowances. A married officer, unless he be satisfied to live in his two rooms, will accordingly be obliged to provide himself, at his own expense, with a house or apartments outside the barracks, while a bachelor must go to mess, paying the higher rate of a honorary member. Such an act of injustice as this to a body of officers who have always been found ready to do their duty when called on, can only tend to increase, if that be possible, the existing universal discontent of the so-called Army Medical Department.—I am, sir, yours obediently,

January 10th, 1877.

A SUBSCRIBER.

MEDICAL NEWS.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.—The following Degrees and Licences in Medicine and Surgery were conferred at the Winter Commencements, on Wednesday, December 20th, 1876.—Bachelors of Surgery.

Marshall, Joseph
Nelis, James Alexander
Pim, William Joseph

Power, Edward Richard
Story, John Benjamin (*stip. con.*)

Bachelors in Medicine.

Browne, John St. George
Conolly, William Rogers
Davison, Henry Alexander
Flood, John Wellesley
Frazer, William John
Houghton, John Francis
Lynch, Gilbert
M'Cartie, Frederick Fitzgerald

MacDermott, Ralph
Malone, Jonathan Hill
Marshall, Joseph
Nelis, James Alexander
Pim, William Joseph
Story, John Benjamin
Thompson, James Edward

Masters in Surgery.

Fitzgerald, Dudley Loftus

Pim, William Joseph

Doctors in Medicine.

Greene, William Thomas

Maunsell, Henry Widenham

Licentiate in Medicine.

Duckworth, Richard Henry D'Olier

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL, Cambridge—House-Physician and Dispenser. Salary of the House-Physician, £65 per annum, with board and lodging. The salary of the Dispenser will be £100 per annum, with dinner. Applications to be made on or before the 17th instant.

CANCER HOSPITAL, Brompton—Resident House-Surgeon and Registrar. Salary, 100 guineas per annum, with board and residence. Applications to be made on or before January 18th, 1877.

CHELSEA UNION—Assistant Medical Officer and Dispenser. Salary, £100 per annum, with furnished apartment, board, etc. Applications to be made on or before the 16th instant.

CLIFTON UNION—Medical Officer for the Second District, and Medical Officer for the Sixth District.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, Caledonian Road—House-Surgeon. Salary, 60 guineas per annum, with board and lodging. Applications on or before the 22nd instant.—Aural Surgeon. Applications to be sent in on or before the 30th instant.

HENLEY UNION—Medical Officer for the Caversham District.

HOLBEACH UNION—Medical Officer for the Holbeach North District and the Workhouse.

HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND LYING-IN INSTITUTION, Brighton—Honorary Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before the 17th instant.

MANCHESTER PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES' ASSOCIATION—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £120 per annum, and private practice allowed.

MIDDLESEX THIRD COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM—Senior Assistant Medical Officer; Second Assistant Medical Officer; Junior Assistant Medical Officer. Salary of the Senior Assistant to commence at £200, that of the Second Assistant at £150, and that of the Junior Assistant at £120 per annum, and furnished apartments, board, washing, and attendance to each. Applications on or before January 16th.

NATIONAL DENTAL HOSPITAL—Assistant Dental Surgeon. Applications to the Treasurer, 149, Great Portland Street.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR THE PARALYSED AND EPILEPTIC—Resident Medical Officer and Registrar. Salary, £100 per annum, with board and lodging.

NORTH-EASTERN HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Hackney—Assistant-Physician.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS DISPENSARY AND INFIRMARY—Resident House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications to be made on or before the 17th instant.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

*POLLARD, Frederick, M.D., appointed Assistant-Physician to the Liverpool Infirmary for Children, *vice* *R. Caton, M.D., resigned.

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 announcement.

BIRTH.

MORRIS.—On January 9th, at 13, Somers Place, Hyde Park Square, the wife of *James Morris, M.D. Lond., Fellow of University College, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

HAYNES—MAUND.—On January 10th, at St. Luke's, Southampton, by the Rev. E. A. Illingworth, M.A., uncle of the bride, assisted by the Rev. F. H. Bowden-Smith, *Stanley Lewis Haynes, M.D., of Eastnor House, Malvern, to Caroline Henrietta Maund, of Portsmouth, Southampton, daughter of the late W. H. Maund, Esq., formerly of Laverstock, Salisbury.

DR. HANDSEL GRIFFITHS of Dublin has been elected Corresponding Member of the Pharmaceutical Society.

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. Dr. Sansom, "Cases illustrating Anomalous Conductions of Mitral Murmurs"; Dr. Leared, "On the Treatment of Tapeworm"; Dr. Dowse, "On Gangrenous Stomatitis, and its Clinical resemblance to Charbon".

TUESDAY.—Pathological Society of London, 8.30 P.M. The evening to be devoted to the exhibition of specimens illustrating the Pathology of Visceral Syphilis. Specimens will be shown by Mr. J. Hutchinson, Drs. Clifford Allbutt, Greenfield, Gowers, Goodhart, Barlow, and others. The microscopic specimens will be arranged ready for inspection by 8 o'clock.

THURSDAY.—Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. Mr. Ashburton Thompson, "On Goa Powder as an Internal Remedy".

FRIDAY.—Medical Microscopical Society (The Century Club, 6, Pall Mall Place, W.), 8 P.M. Annual General Meeting; President's Address.

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 *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, are requested to communicate beforehand with the printer, Mr. Thomas Richards, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C.

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

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, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C.; 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., London.

MODEL HOSPITALS.

SIR,—I should be extremely obliged if any of your readers could give me the name of any small hospital dispensary, of about thirty or forty beds, which is considered worthy of imitation.—I am, etc., C. F. HUTCHINSON, M.D.
19, Esplanade, Scarborough, January 1877.

POISONOUS DISINFECTANTS.

ANOTHER of the incessantly recurring accidents of accidental poisoning from the swallowing of carbolic acid was the subject of an inquiry recently, and has attracted much attention. The case occurred at the Hampstead Hospital, and, like a series of similar cases, the carbolic acid, being stored in a stone jar, was administered in mistake for a potable fluid. If such accidents did not occur so frequently, it might be expected that an increase of precaution would be sufficient to guard against them. They are now, however, of very common occurrence, notwithstanding such care, and it seems almost hopeless to expect that they will cease while free use is made of so dangerous a material. There is more than one harmless or much less dangerous disinfectant in the market, all well spoken of; among them, Langston Jones's universal disinfecting powder, which has received the highest encomiums from Mr. Wanklyn; Dr. Whitmore, medical officer of Marylebone; Dr. Tripe, medical officer of Hackney; Dr. Baylis, medical officer of Kent; Mr. Haviland, and others, and is regularly, we believe, in use at Bethlem, Leazesden, and in the Yorkshire asylums, and in a number of other asylums and hospitals. There is also chloralum, which shares the advantage with Langston Jones's powder of being colourless and inodorous, and non-poisonous; and those excellent and by no means malodorous products due to Dr. Bond, terebene and ferralum, which are not likely, we imagine, to be swallowed by misadventure.

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 FROM CHLOROFORM.

SIR,—As no one else has vouchsafed the information, I may, I hope, be allowed to inform you (having been acquainted with the man for the last three months, although I did not treat him) that the barman whose death, under chloroform, is reported in the *JOURNAL* of a fortnight ago, was, although almost as a necessity in the habit of taking beer daily, by no means a drunkard—at least, I have never seen him intoxicated. He had also just recovered from a severe attack of intermittent fever—a disease he had contracted in former years abroad, but which is very apt to return here, where severe cases of intermittent fever are sometimes seen in persons who have never been out of England, the district being so low and damp.

It is stated in your report that he had no food for eight hours before chloroform was given. With due deference to the gentleman who directed his treatment, I beg to be allowed to question the judiciousness of such prolonged fasting, which is so certain to produce flatulence—a condition in itself sufficient very seriously to affect the heart's action with feelings of faintness, or actual fainting, and this just before the administration of a drug which kills by its irritating action on the vagus nerve, as well as by its paralyzing effect on the heart itself, as I have myself observed. Even after solid easily digested food, which would have left the stomach in about three hours, such fasting would, I think, have been unnecessary, but after liquid food it was still less so. I once had to take chloroform seven hours after a meal, one of the gentlemen who was to give it being three hours late of coming; and, although I got brandy and ammonia before taking it, I should never like to take it in such circumstances again, as I was more prostrated after it than at any other of the eight or nine times I have been chloroformed.

I hope these remarks may not be thought as in any way captious, as they are only made in the earnest hope that such calamities may be rendered fewer in the future by every one who is in a position to do so pointing out, so far as lies in his power, anything that may appear to increase the dangers, already too numerous, of anaesthetics.—I am, yours faithfully, W. MUNRO, M.D.

Battersea Park Road, December 30th, 1876.

DEATHS FROM ANÆSTHETICS.

WE are still awaiting promised details of the recent death from Wolverhampton Hospital. It appears to us always opportune on these occasions to repeat that it is a primary duty of every medical man who meets with a fatal accident from the use of any anaesthetic, speedily to publish all the details. The question of safe anaesthesia is still under study, and no opportunity should be lost of furnishing materials for its solution.

N. H. J.—Some years ago, the Presidents respectively of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons received one hundred guineas annually for their attendances at the National Vaccine Board.

SANITARY RISKS.

THE medical officer for Margate, speaking of the sanitary risks belonging to the habits of the various classes, expresses the opinion that scarlet fever is caused among the poor by inability on their part to isolate those suffering from the disease, and by their unwillingness in many cases to allow their children or relatives to be moved at once to a fever hospital. Among the better classes, it is to a very great extent kept up by the alternate assembling and dispersing of large numbers of boys and girls to and from boarding-schools. Outbreaks in boarding-schools very generally occur shortly after the pupils have reassembled, the disease being imported from some locality where it may be prevalent. An attempt is then made in the school to stamp it out by isolation and other measures; but if this be ineffectual, and fresh children continue to be attacked, the school is broken up and a large number of boys and girls are sent to as many different localities to become fresh centres for propagating this very contagious malady. Among the poor, scarlet fever can only be checked by giving greater powers to medical officers of health and by providing more hospital accommodation. The spread among the better classes may be diminished by proprietors of boarding-schools requiring a medical certificate from each pupil on his or her return to school, to the effect that the said pupil has not been exposed to the influence of any contagious or infectious disease; and, on the other hand, when an outbreak occurs, a separate house or tent should be obtained for those attacked, and the school should not under any circumstances be broken up or the pupils dispersed.

NFM.—The celebrated Radcliffe left £600 *per annum* to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

AN ADVERTISEMENT.

SIR,—I should like to call your attention to the enclosed advertisement, which I have taken from the *Leeds Mercury* of Saturday, December 30th, 1876. Is it not in direct opposition to the bye laws of the College of Surgeons?—I am, yours faithfully, G. H. H.

"Mr. Clarkson, Surgeon, Darley, Ripley, celebrated for curing bad legs, may be consulted on Tuesday, January 2nd, from Ten till Twelve, at William IV Hotel, Briggate, Leeds."

A MEMBER (Manchester).—Emma, Queen of the Sandwich Islands, is an English lady, the daughter of Mr. Charles Ryde Rooke, M.R.C.S. Eng., whose diploma of membership is dated January 16th, 1827. His name appears in the last published calendar of the College as still residing in the Sandwich Islands. Queen Emma was the honoured guest of our Queen a few years since.

HERPES ZOSTER.

SIR,—The experience of your correspondent Mr. Godfrey with reference to the treatment of this disease is certainly not mine. I must have seen not fewer than half-a-dozen cases in the last six months, and all have got rid of the disease in two or three weeks. I always commence the treatment by one or two calomel and rhubarb or colocynth purges, along with some saline mixture, until the tongue becomes clean; then one or other of the nerve tonics will complete the cure. However patent it may be that this eruption follows the course of nerves, and is therefore classed as a neurosis, it is very clear to my mind that it is accompanied, if not caused, by derangement of the secreting organs, and that our treatment must be directed to them in the first place.—I am, sir, yours, etc.,

December 23rd, 1876.

T. MORLEY ROOKE, M.D.

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, not later than *Thursday*, twelve o'clock.

ANTIVIVISECTORS.

At a recent meeting at Hastings in support of the silly and unscrupulous agitation against experiments on living animals, which a few of the wilder spirits are still attempting to force, the lecturer (a Mr. Blyth) was very much posed by a few pertinent questions of fact from Dr. Ewart, and the subsequent speeches of Dr. Ewart and Mr. Charles Hunter. We have had lately a good many extracts from country newspapers in which the few fanatical persons who still prosecute their campaign disseminate statements which they probably believe to be true, but which are so wildly calumnious, ignorant, and false, that, seeing the obscure corners in which they chiefly are reproduced, we think it quite unnecessary to give them any attention. On the other hand, we believe that medical men may render some useful service by attending at such local "lectures" and meetings as are announced, and simply refuting the tissue of exaggerated nonsense which is talked. For this purpose, the materials will always be found in the excellent report of the Royal Commission, and especially in the evidence of Professor Sharpey, Professor Turner, Professor McKendrick, Sir J. Paget, Sir W. Gull, and Dr. Pye-Smith, and in the reports of the deputations of the British Medical Association to Lord Carnarvon and Mr. Cross, published in the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL** in July 1876, and since republished in a separate form.

THE PENURY OF VACCINE AND ANIMAL VACCINATION.

SIR,—That vaccination is the most splendid triumph of preventive medicine possessed by science is, I suppose, admitted on all hands by persons with capacity for estimating evidence. The two objections against vaccination from the arm of one infant to that of another are as follows. 1. That some diseases may be conveyed by such process; and 2, that there is apt to be occasionally a paucity of vaccine matter at the time when it is most needed for revaccinations, etc. Both of these arguments must, I think, be admitted to have a certain weight. That syphilis is now and then communicated from an apparently healthy infant to other perfectly healthy children by vaccination, is now conceded by all. In a country, then, like this, where the law forces all parents to vaccinate their infants, it would seem not an unfair argument, on the part of timorous parents, that they should be supplied from a source of vaccine *sans peur et sans reproche*.

The practice of vaccination from the young calf, carried on at present so successfully by Dr. Warlomont at Brussels, seems, therefore, to merit our close and sympathetic attention. In regard to the penury of vaccine, I may mention that, wishing to revaccinate suddenly a number of persons in a house where a case of small-pox had broken out, I wrote to the Whitehall department recently for some points of vaccine. Only six were forwarded, a number greatly below that I had need of; hence that institution, as at present administered, fails to meet emergencies. Out of 2,000 practitioners in Belgium, I find, from a pamphlet I lately translated, at the request of Dr. Warlomont, that some 1,000 gentlemen are in the habit of practising vaccination; and of this number, no less than 768 applied to the vaccinal state institute of Belgium for lymph in the year 1873, showing that the whole of Belgium is rapidly taking up the views of Dr. Warlomont as to the superiority of vaccination from the young calf over that from arm to arm. It seems, also, that vaccinations made with points of animal vaccine delivered by this institute, succeeded in 96 per cent. of the patients, and that in revaccinations as many as 62 per cent. of cases were successfully inoculated by it. Mr. Warlomont assures us, also, that out of more than 10,000 children vaccinated at Brussels by animal vaccine from 1865 to 1870, and passing through the terrible epidemic of small-pox of 1870-71, not a single child was attacked by the pest; and that the same immunity was observed among those who were revaccinated by it—a far greater number, of course.

With regard to the penury of vaccine lymph—of which I have, in common with so many others to complain—in Brussels this cannot occur. In the time of the epidemic, the vaccinal state institute of Brussels furnished animal vaccine for more than 500 vaccinations a day, and sent off much lymph at the same time to foreign countries. Of course, if 5,000 vaccinations had been desired daily instead of 500, all that would be required would be simply a greater number of calves. The calves, it seems, in Brussels are hired by a butcher to the establishment for a week, and then taken away in perfect health. Indigent persons are vaccinated by the state without payment; other persons pay for vaccination at the institute, and medical practitioners desiring to have points can procure them in any number by payment of a small sum. I have myself been obliged to write to Brussels for vaccine lymph when I could not get lymph in London, and I have found it most successful in raising a firm vesicle, without causing any unpleasant symptoms whatever.

The moral of what I have written is, I think, clear. In this country it would be very advisable to have, in addition to the present admirable system of vaccination, deservedly compulsory on all parents who have assumed the responsibility of rearing children, an institute for the culture and practice of animal vaccination connected with the government: firstly, because of the penury of vaccine occurring at present, and whenever epidemics occur; and, secondly, to afford to scrupulous parents the choice of the vaccine they are compelled to use.—I remain, yours, etc.,

CHAS. R. DRYSDALE, M.D.

17, Woburn Place, Russell Square, Dec. 30th, 1876.

PROFESSIONAL FEES.

SIR,—Is it, in the opinion of the members, customary for a medical man to charge the sister of a member of the profession who resides in her brother's house for professional advice, as I know of a case in which a medical man charged full fees? You will oblige, yours faithfully,

A MEMBER.

MR. L. A. WILLIAMS.—For hardening the brain for anatomical examination, weak aqueous solutions of nitric acid of from five to fifteen per cent. strength have for some time been used in our hospitals and schools with great advantage, and for all ordinary pathological investigations it will be found very convenient. For histological purposes, various solutions may be found, which are described in the now numerous and excellent handbooks of histological research, prominent among which are to be mentioned those of Rutherford, Michael Foster, and Schäfer.

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.

TREATMENT OF STRUMOUS OPHTHALMIA.

SIR,—Would you kindly allow me to ask the following question in your valuable **JOURNAL**? What is the best treatment for a long-standing case of strumous ophthalmia in a boy thirteen years of age? I have used solution of nitrate of silver, three grains to the ounce of water, and besmeared the eyelids every night with unguentum hydragryi nitratis mitius. I have also blistered the temples, and had setons inserted for weeks; besides having given internally quinine, sulphate of iron, antimony, rhubarb, cod-liver oil, etc. The case improved very much up to three weeks back, since which time it has been at a standstill. I therefore will be glad to hear of any other treatment from any of the members.—I remain, yours faithfully,

M. A.

CUIVIER.—Professor Lowne will commence his course of lectures at the College of Surgeons about March next.

M.D.—Apply to the Secretary of the British Medical Benevolent Fund, Dr. G. Hett, Ledbury Road, Bayswater, W.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Sheffield Daily Telegraph; The Londonderry Sentinel; The Lincolnshire Chronicle; The Liverpool Daily Courier; The Salford Weekly News; The Glasgow Herald; The Metropolitan; The Chatham and Rochester Observer; The Redditch Indicator; The Colonies; The Hampshire Telegraph; The Birmingham Daily Gazette; The Scotsman; The Edinburgh Courant; The Bridport News; The Liverpool Medical Enquirer; The Liverpool Porcupine; The Sheffield and Rotherham Independent; The Western Daily Mercury; The Macclesfield Courier; The Birmingham Daily Post; The North Wales Chronicle; The Broad Arrow; The Sunderland Daily Post; The Irish Times; The Australasian; The North and South Shields Gazette; The Liverpool Daily Post; The Bradford Observer; The Western Mail; The Leeds Mercury; 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:—

Dr. C. J. B. Williams, Cannes; Dr. R. W. Falconer, Bath; Dr. George Johnson, London; Dr. W. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; Dr. Handell Griffiths, Dublin; Dr. Samuel Prall, West Malling; Dr. J. Crichton Browne, London; Dr. Edis, London; Dr. Bradbury, Cambridge; Dr. Herbert Snow, London; Dr. F. J. Brown, Rochester; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Dr. Woodward, Worcester; An Associate; Dr. Joseph Bell, Edinburgh; The Registrar-General of England; Dr. H. Charlton Bastian, London; Dr. Dowse, Highgate; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; Dr. Tripe, Hackney; Dr. Braidwood, Birkenhead; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Mr. G. Eastes, London; Dr. J. M. Fothergill, London; M. W.; The Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; Dr. Maunsell, Liverpool; The Secretary of the Harveian Society; Dr. Parsons, Liverpool; Boulanger; Mr. Sewill, London; Dr. Dudhead, Kensington; Dr. Watson Campbell, Dunse; Mr. H. H. Smith, Haverstock Hill; Dr. Broom, Sheffield; Mr. J. Eaton, Liverpool; Dr. Fowler, London; Dr. Iaidlaw Purves, London; Dr. Parsons, Dover; Mr. R. S. Fowler, Bath; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London; A Junior Surgeon; Mr. A. F. McGill, Leeds; Dr. Brodie, Edinburgh; The Secretary of the Medical Microscopical Society; Mr. Richard Davy, London; Dr. Reginald E. Thompson, London; Dr. Hutchinson, Scarborough; A Member; Mr. Robert Lawson, Wakefield; Mr. N. S. Oliver, Portsmouth; Dr. D. Foulis, Glasgow; Mr. E. C. Board, Clifton; Dr. Cayley, London; Mr. T. Pickering Pick, London; Dr. G. H. Evans, London; Dr. W. Squire, London; Dr. W. H. Colvill, London; G. H. H.; Mr. H. Burford Norman, Southsea; Mr. H. B. Harrison, Caterham; Dr. R. Maclaren, Carlisle; Mr. R. S. Groves, London; Dr. Ord, London; Dr. W. F. Wade, Birmingham; H. M. M.; The Secretary of the Pathological Society; T. M. C.; Dr. Cameron, Glasgow; Mr. C. F. Maunder, London; Dr. Armstrong, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham; Dr. Jagielski, London; Dr. Ho'man, Reigate; Dr. Gurney, London; Mr. J. T. Clover, London; Our Paris Correspondent; Dr. Hughlings Jackson, London; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Dr. Levinge, Athlone; Mr. B. F. C. Costelloe, Oxford; Mr. J. Wickham Barnes, London; Dr. Whipple, London; Mr. W. Symond, Hickford; Dr. Farquharson, London; Dr. Pollard, Liverpool; Mr. W. Bush, Nottingham; Mr. Heywood, Manchester; Mr. D. Robison, Aspatria; Dr. Hitchcock, Lewisham; A Subscriber, Edinburgh; Mr. Bradley, Manchester; etc.

BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

Spiritualism and Animal Magnetism. By G. G. Zerff, Ph.D., F.R.S.L. Third Edition. London: Hardwicke and Bogue. 1876.
A Century of American Medicine, 1776-1876. By Edward H. Clarke, M.D.; H. J. Bigelow, M.D.; Samuel D. Gross, M.D., LL.D., D.C.L. Oxon.; T. Gaillard Thomas, M.D.; and J. S. Billings, M.D. Trübner and Co.: 1876.
Notes on Asylums for the Insane in America. By John C. Bucknill, M.D. Lond., F.R.S., F.R.C.P. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1876.
Clinical Lectures on Diseases Peculiar to Women. By Lombe Atthill, M.D. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged. Dublin: Fannin and Co. 1876.
Hints to Mothers. By Thomas Bull, M.D. New edition, thoroughly revised by Robert W. Parker, M.R.C.S. Eng. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1877.
The Maternal Management of Children in Health and Disease. By Thomas Bull, M.D. New edition, thoroughly revised by Robert W. Parker, M.R.C.S. Eng. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1877.