

dition of the hospital, has been laid hold of by the opposition and used with considerable force. Dr. Renaud has constituted himself in a measure the spokesman of the opposition, and has not failed to show up the inconsistency between this the present, and that the past, language of the Medical Committee. To the fair judging mind, however, this does not go for much. Dr. Renaud ever allied himself with the extreme conservative party of *quidam non movere*, and never during his active connection with the hospital showed any interest in the welfare of the student, or in sanitary progress in the hospital; no reform was ever instituted by him; and it is quite in accordance with precedent to find him violently opposed to the counsels of the resident medical superintendent, to whose wise suggestions much of such sweetness and light as the hospital possesses are due.

It seems most probable that a compromise will be for the present arrived at; that it will be decided to rectify the faults in the drainage and in the ventilation of the present building as far as possible, and to erect, in place of the present unsightly sheds, perhaps one pavilion for about a hundred patients. It should not be overlooked that, if this be done, the *sequitur* necessarily follows, that in time the present building will come down, and the whole of the existing area will be covered with pavilions. It is a great matter for regret that selfishness and prejudice have so far gained the day as to render this issue probable; but so it is, nor does it seem likely that any adverse decision will be arrived at when a general poll of the whole body of trustees is taken.

In a word, in spite of the inordinate cost of the present building, in spite of its insufficient accommodation, in spite of its faulty construction and of its disgraceful drainage, it is most probable that it will be decided to keep it much as it stands and where it stands, although there are twenty sites close at hand equally accessible to all concerned, patients, public, and staff, and which might be purchased for a fractional portion of the sum which the sale of the present site would realise.

Among the more rational suggestions of a temporising nature is one made by Dr. Crompton, to the effect that earth-closets should be forthwith introduced, and that all pipes leading down to the existing drains should be cut off, after being thoroughly flushed with disinfectants. His second suggestion, that the whole basement-area should be asphalted over in order to seal up and close over the foul drains, is, perhaps, neither so easy of execution or so desirable as the first. This introduction of the dry-earth system with Tobin's ventilating-tubes, would probably be of real value as a temporary measure; and all measures short of complete destruction of the present building, with re-erection of a larger and more suitable hospital, must certainly be regarded in this light. Too much heat, probably, exists at present to render cohesion on one plan anything but short lived; but, doubtless, the time will come, when calmer counsels will prevail, and when the man who argues that the interests of Owens College and the Infirmary are one and the same, that the nearer they are brought together the better for both, and that this may be done without injury to any single party, will not be looked upon as a suborned and interested casuist.

Mr. Fox Turner states that he can conceive a man inheriting the kingdom of heaven who has never subscribed to a pavilion hospital, and it may be so, for the mercy of heaven is great, and the blackest offender may hope for forgiveness; but it is a consummation devoutly to be wished, that not many needing forgiveness on this score will be found among the people of Manchester in the course of a year or two. In the meanwhile, we must congratulate ourselves upon the fact that, by means of unceasing vigilance as to cleanliness, and by the erection of the existing wooden sheds, we are able in a fairly satisfactory manner to carry on the work of the institution.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE fourth ordinary meeting of the session 1876-7 was held on Thursday, January 11th, 1877, at the Queen's College, Birmingham; present, Dr. G. F. BODINGTON, President, in the chair, and seventy members and two visitors.

*New Members.*—The following gentlemen were elected members of the Branch: W. Clibborn, M.B.; H. J. Faussett, M.B.; C. E. Gosling, M.R.C.S.; and J. J. Luce, M.D.

*Communications* were made by Mr. Whitcombe, Dr. Hickinbotham, Mr. Gamgee, Dr. Saundby, Dr. Sawyer, Mr. Wesley Thompson, and Mr. Kettle.

*Resignation of Dr. Foster as Secretary.*—A letter was read from Dr. Foster, resigning the office of honorary secretary. It was resolved: "That this Branch deeply regrets that Dr. Foster is compelled, by his numerous engagements, to withdraw from the office of honorary secretary, which he has filled with so much credit to himself and such signal advantage to the Branch; and that, in accepting Dr. Foster's resignation, the Branch begs to express to him its warm appreciation of his devotion to its best interests; and that the cordial thanks be and are hereby tendered to Dr. Foster for his invaluable services in the office of honorary secretary."

*Operation Fees to General Practitioners.*—Mr. FURNEAUX JORDAN having brought forward Mr. Maunder's resolution concerning the payment of an operation-fee for general practitioners, it was resolved that family medical practitioners can be safely left to arrange with patients for their own fees.

*Medical Defence.*—Mr. OAKES having urged the Branch to adopt steps for the promotion of medical defence, a discussion followed, in which Mr. Tait, Dr. Harrison, Mr. Solomon, Mr. Manby, Mr. Williams, Mr. Kettle, Mr. Ker, and Dr. Hickinbotham took part.

Dr. HICKINBOTHAM moved, Mr. LAWSON TAIT seconded, and it was carried *nem. con.*:—"That a Committee of five, with power to add to their number, be appointed to consider the best means for the promotion and defence of legally qualified practitioners, and to report to this Branch."

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### MEDICAL DEFENCE.

SIR,—At a meeting of the Sub-Branch of the Staffordshire Branch, held at Stoke, on the 11th instant, to discuss "The desirability, or otherwise, of joining the Medical Defence Association", it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Mr. Spanton (in the absence of Mr. Folker), "That the Council of the Staffordshire Branch be requested to represent to the Council of the Association the desirability of the Association undertaking the work of prosecuting unqualified persons, who represent themselves as members of the profession".

We shall be glad if you will insert this in the JOURNAL, that the opinions of members of the Association may be elicited.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
J. G. U. WEST.

### VACCINATION.

SIR,—Under this heading, Dr. F. J. Brown of Rochester writes a short letter to the JOURNAL, in which he taxes the public vaccinators with either deceit or ignorance. If the former, had he not better have made inquiries first before running to his mighty pen, and then talked the matter over with his offending brother practitioner and tried to divert him from his evil road? or, failing in this, might he not have written himself to the Privy Council, where no doubt his letter would receive the attention it deserved? If the latter, would it not have been better for him to write a paper on vaccination, and thus teach the public vaccinator how to vaccinate?

I trust that, should the Privy Council trouble their heads in the matter, Dr. F. J. Brown will give up his authority, in order that a body of medical men may not have to suffer from the stigma laid upon them for the sake of one erring sinner.

Trusting that you will give publicity to this, I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
A PUBLIC VACCINATOR.

January 13th, 1877.

SIR,—The assumption of Dr. Brown, in your last number, p. 58, that vaccine lymph taken from a re-vaccinated person is useless, wants further proof. I fail to see why lymph taken from a *perfect vesicle* on a re-vaccinated subject may not be quite as efficacious as that taken from a primary vesicle; but perhaps Dr. Brown can give us proof to the contrary; the question, at any rate, is well worth ventilating.

There is another practical question that I should like to ask those of your readers who have had great experience in the matter. Assuming, and I think about this there is no doubt, that re-vaccination induces to a great extent immunity from small-pox; at what period is it safe to allow a re-vaccinated person to enter the room of a small-pox patient?—Yours obediently,  
EDWARDS CRISP, M.D.

THE appointment of Head of the Statistical Branch of the Army Medical Department, Whitehall Yard, has been filled by Deputy Surgeon-General J. Irvine, M.D.

## WAR-OFFICE SURGEONS.

SIR,—In the *London Gazette* of December 29th, 1876, is the announcement: "The undermentioned senior apothecaries of the Bombay medical establishment to have the honorary and local rank of surgeon: J. Lawrence and W. Waite." To the generality of readers, unacquainted with the significance of such terms, in official phraseology, as "honorary rank", "relative rank", etc., this will convey little distinct meaning. But, to those accustomed to the use and efficacy of such terms, it means that, in consequence of long service, or some other merit in the two gentlemen named, the War Office, whence this announcement issues, has conferred on them the rank and title of surgeon; this title to be adopted by these gentlemen on all occasions they please, and to be used to them by others on all occasions of official intercourse; limiting only the exercise of such title to the geographical boundaries of the local service in India.

The object of my writing these remarks is to point out that the War Office, in here conferring the "honorary rank", even though only "local", is conferring the title and standing of surgeon: a title and standing which is only lawfully conferable by recognised professional licensing bodies. It is quite within the province of the War Office to confer any honorary rank of a purely military nature; to give to a paymaster the honorary rank of major, enabling him to be styled major henceforth; or to give to a medical officer (who was a qualified surgeon before he ever tendered his services to the War Office) the "honorary rank" of deputy surgeon-general on his retirement; and so on. But it cannot be that the War Office can make a "professional man" out of one who is not already in the ranks of the profession, or can, in the first instance, confer on any one the title of surgeon, or any title entailing a professional qualification.

I write this without any knowledge whatever of the two gentlemen named in the *Gazette*; and I have no doubt that they have deserved well to be rewarded with any honour that the War Office can rightly confer. Only I desire to observe that the War Office has not the right to confer the title here sought to be conferred; and that, in issuing this announcement in the *Gazette*, it is trenching unlawfully on the peculiar powers of professional licensing bodies. Thinking that it is only loyal to the views and objects of the British Medical Association to point this out,

I am, sir, yours obediently,

A REGISTERED SURGEON.

January 2nd, 1877.

## 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 January 15th; and, when eligible, will be admitted to the pass-examination.

Messrs. Alexander M. Eason, James C. Baxter, Samuel McC. Higgins, John H. C. Ward, and James Pointon, students of the Liverpool School; Edwin Godson, James W. Riley, Joseph W. Moore, and Thomas H. Colbourn, of the Birmingham School; Henry C. Shann and Richard B. Morley, of the Leeds School; Richard J. Dearden and Samuel Hampson, of the Manchester School; Dominic A. Gomes, of Bombay; John C. Saunders, of the Sheffield School; William A. Norman, of the Cambridge School; Alfred N. G. Gibbs, of the Bristol School; and Patrick M. Poett, of the Dublin School.

The following gentlemen passed on January 16th.

Messrs. John Wishart, M.B. Toronto, Adam H. Wright, M.B. Toronto, Duncan Fraser, M.B. Toronto, Friend R. Eccles, M.D. Toronto, and Francis C. Gibbs, students of St. Thomas's Hospital; Herbert W. Seager, Francis D. W. Wheaton, and Louis C. N. Nicod, of St. Mary's Hospital; Lewis W. Stevens, John Hartley, and Frank Smith, of the Middlesex Hospital; William McGeagh, M.D. Queen's University of Ireland, and Richard D. R. Sweeting, of the London Hospital; George McW. Henry and John J. Lloyd, of University College Hospital; John Brunt and Matthew J. B. Anderson, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; William Forrest, of the Liverpool School; George H. Russell, of Guy's Hospital; and Horace H. C. Murray, of the Charing Cross Hospital.

The following gentlemen passed on January 17th.

Messrs. G. N. Stathers, L. E. Williams, Thomas Buxton, A. S. Norman, H. J. Barnes, A. L. Evans, D. C. Embleton, and Wm. Saunders, students of University College; T. G. Claburn, R. C. Stewart, W. H. Addison, W. H. Norman, J. W. Jerome, J. M. Martin, and T. F. Clarke, of King's College; J. H. Henchey, G. A. Roper, Oswald Roberts, and S. C. B. Robinson, of St. Thomas's Hospital; J. M. L. Davies, J. P. Pearce, and C. J. Wills, of the Middlesex Hospital; H. B. Mort, Ronald Ross, and W. A. Sykes, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; C. J. Fooks, George Pilkington, and Haward Hawkins, of Guy's Hospital; H. B. Carl, of St. Mary's Hospital; and Alfred Fordham, of the London Hospital.

## MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

BIRMINGHAM and MIDLAND FREE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN—Extra Acting Physician. Salary, £60 per annum. Applications to be made on or before February 1st.

DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON, Leicester Square—Dental House-Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before the 14th February.  
EAST RIDING LUNATIC ASYLUM—Medical Superintendent. Salary, £350 per annum, with furnished house, coals, and gas. Applications to be made on or before February 1st.  
GENERAL HOSPITAL, Nottingham—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with board and residence. Applications to be made on or before the 27th instant.  
GLANFORD BRIGG UNION—Medical Officer for the Scunthorpe District.  
GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, Caledonian Road—House-Surgeon. Salary, 60 guineas per annum, with board and lodging. Applications on or before the 26th instant.—Aural Surgeon. Applications to be sent in on or before the 30th instant.  
HOLBEACH UNION—Medical Officer for the Holbeach North District and the Workhouse.  
HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE THROAT, Golden Square—Surgeon. Also, an Emergency Surgeon, at a salary of £50 per annum. Applications to be made on or before the 29th instant.  
INVERNESS DISTRICT ASYLUM—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary to commence at £80 per annum, with bed, board, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 29th instant.  
KING'S LYNN UNION—Medical Officer for the Workhouse.  
LIVERPOOL DISPENSARIES—Resident Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary to commence at £108 per annum, with furnished apartments, coals, gas, and attendance. Applications to be made on or before the 22nd instant.  
MANCHESTER PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES' ASSOCIATION—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £120 per annum, and private practice allowed.  
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.  
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE DISPENSARY—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £200 per annum, and residence. Applications to be made on or before the 26th instant.  
NORTH-EASTERN HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Hackney—Assistant-Physician.  
ROYAL SOUTH LONDON DISPENSARY, St. George's Cross, S.E.—Two Honorary District Surgeons. Applications to be made on or before the 31st instant.  
ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square) PROVIDENT DISPENSARY—Second Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before February 10th.  
SALFORD AND PENDLETON ROYAL HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon. Salary, £120 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications to be made on or before the 24th instant.  
WANTAGE UNION—Medical Officer for the Ilsley District. Salary, £75 per annum, and fees. Applications on or before February 5th.

## MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

GIBBINGS, Ashley, M.R.C.S., L.D.S., appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the Dental Hospital of London.  
HUTCHINSON, S. J., M.R.C.S., appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the Dental Hospital of London.  
JONES, Arthur H., M.B., appointed House-Surgeon to the Northampton Infirmary, vice G. F. K. Smith, F.R.C.S., resigned.  
MATTHEWSON, F., M.B., appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the Royal Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear.  
\*PRITCHARD, Urban, M.D., appointed Senior Surgeon to the Royal Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear, vice \*Wm. Harvey, F.R.C.S., deceased.

## 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.

## MARRIAGES.

DUNN—FALLOWS.—On January 11th, at Christ Church, Wolverhampton, by the Rev. C. H. V. Pixell, assisted by the Rev. C. Bodington, Frederick Dunn, Surgeon, of Wolverhampton, to Mary Joule, daughter of the late Richard Fallows, of the Pere Hill, Stone.

GODSON—TRITTON.—On January 11th, at St. George's, Hanover Square, by the Rev. Canon Lindsay, Rector of Kettering, assisted by the Rev. J. W. Bliss, Rector of Betteshanger, and the Rev. John Wreford, \*Clement Godson, M.D., M.R.C.P. Lond., of 8, Upper Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, to Alice Maria, daughter of the Rev. R. Biscoe Tritton, Vicar of Otford, Kent.

HAYNES—MAUND.—On January 1st, at St. Luke's, Southampton, by the Rev. E. Illingworth, uncle of the bride, assisted by the Vicar, the Rev. F. Bowden Smith, \*Stanley L. Haynes, M.D., of Eastnor House, Malvern, to Caroline H. Maund, second daughter of the late W. H. Maund, Esq., of Portwood, Southampton.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.—Lady Louisa Percy has given a donation of £500 to this hospital for a hydraulic lift.

TESTIMONIAL.—Dr. J. H. Gray, having resigned his appointment as house-surgeon to the Bristol Hospital for Women and Children, after a tenure of over three years, the honorary medical staff were anxious to give some substantial mark of their appreciation of the courteous and satisfactory manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office, and, at a meeting held at the hospital on the 12th instant (Dr. Beddoe in the chair), presented him with a handsome timepiece, accompanied with a testimonial, signed by the physicians and surgeons, expressive of their feelings and good wishes for his future success in life. An inkstand was also presented by the nurses, and various gifts by other officers and patients of the institution, as tokens of their respect and esteem.

## 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.—Charing Cross, 2 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.—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.

TUESDAY.—	Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Dr. John Harley, "On a Case of Sclerema Adultorum"; Mr. H. T. Butlin, "On the Minute Anatomy of Two Cases of Carcinoma of the Breast, preceded by Eczema of the Nipple and Areola".
WEDNESDAY.—	Hunterian Society (London Institution). 7.30 P.M.: Council Meeting, 8 P.M.: Dr. Galabin, "On the Use of Esmarch's Elastic Constrictor in Amputation of the Cervix Uteri".—Association of Surgeons practising Dental Surgery. Council meeting, 7.30. 8.30.: Mr. T. Edgewell, "A Remarkable Case of Maxillary Disease"; Mr. Nathaniel Stevenson, "Abnormal Hypertrophy of Intermaxillary Bone, and Operation to remedy the Defect"; Dr. Orphoet (Edinburgh), "A New Means of Preventing the Access of Saliva in Dental Operations"; Mr. Hamilton Cartwright, "Severe Case of Alveolar Hæmorrhage connected with Jaundice".
FRIDAY.—	Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Address by the President, Mr. Brodhurst, "Cases of Subcutaneous Section of the Neck of the Thigh-bone"; Dr. Greenfield, "A Case of Hydatid of the Lung"; Mr. Pugin Thornton, "A Case of Tracheotomy in which the Operation was performed three times in a few years".

## 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.

## COPPENHALL SPA.

DR. RICHARD LORD states in the *Creve Guardian* that this new spa may be characterised as a mild sulphurous spring, with alkaline and ferruginous impregnations, and would, therefore, be tonic, antacid, alterative, diuretic, and laxative, and to be used externally as well as internally. The cases most likely to derive benefit are the following: Indigestion, with sluggish liver and bowels; rheumatism and gout, and their allied affections; and chronic skin diseases.

VERITAS (Manchester).—The questions raised are of a technically legal character, and we are unable to offer an opinion upon them.

## RECOVERY OF FEES.

SIR,—My registered qualifications are L.R.C.P. and L.R.C.S. Edin. I wish to sue a patient for an account for visits and medicine. I am informed, my diplomas being Scotch, that I cannot recover a professional debt in an English court. Holding the above qualifications, and they being registered, can I not legally recover my debts through a county court in England? An answer will oblige.—Yours truly,

F.R.L.S.

\*. Yes; under Section 31 of the Medical Act. See *JOURNAL* of November 11th, 1876, p. 640.

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.

## CONSULTANTS' FEES.

SIR,—In the town where I reside, the gentlemen who profess to practise as consulting-physicians charge £1 is. for three consultations. Owing, I suppose, to the low fees, frequent (and I may say unnecessary) consultations are often held, putting the general practitioner to much inconvenience. It is difficult for a general practitioner to get adequate remuneration for attendance at consultations where the consulting-physician charges only seven shillings. I find that such consultants trench unduly on the general practitioner. Will you kindly give me your opinion as to whether the above charge is sufficient or not, and what the general practitioner should charge?—Yours truly,

BOULANGER.

January 8th, 1877.

\*. We are not acquainted with any consultation fees of less than a guinea.

## THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

SIR,—It is satisfactory to see laymen at length awakening to the gross injustice that is constantly done to medical men. That the injustice is wide-spread is palpable to all; and that a layman should first direct attention to a wrong is in itself a direct proof that the wrong has reached such a height as to force itself on the laity by its very enormity. We accordingly thank Mr. Johnson for his timely and sensible letter, published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* on December 16th, wherein he exposes the utter injustice of the system pursued by the Medical Attendance Department of Friendly Societies. The case is by no means over-drawn; and it is within my own knowledge that several, in joining these clubs, have openly avowed that their chief object was to avoid paying for medical attendance. Nor is this unknown to the authorities of the societies, the cheapness of the medical fee being adroitly made use of as an inducement to enter the department, and thereby advance the material prosperity and strength of the Society. As Mr. Johnson distinctly and truly assumes, many are members of the medical branch of these societies who have no right to be. Men whose incomes are by no means contemptible are found taking advantage of the club-doctor. Information has been supplied me lately that a friend and neighbouring practitioner has the pleasure of attending a man in a very substantial position indeed, an employer of labour, while several other cases of a like description might be alluded to.

As to entering the medical department with a view to claim attendance, Mr. Johnson is quite right in saying that a medical man can seldom prevent this. It may not be out of place to mention a sort of back door, by which comparatively well-to-do men gain access to it without passing before the medical man for the purpose at all. Such men, then, enter only the insurance department at first, well knowing that they would not be permitted to join the medical branch in such societies as have the two separate. For a time they remain thus. Then it begins to dawn on them—after a sufficient interval, though, only—that sickness might invade. They send in their names to the secretary, along with their subscription for the doctor, and the name is quietly set down accordingly. The health-certificate has been already given; no new one is asked for, the Society being in reality not interested in the arrangement, which is quietly managed between, it may be, its secretary and the applicant. It is the doctor's business, not its; yet a fresh certificate is required should the same member wish to raise the amount of his insurance. But this is for the protection of the Society, which is alone interested. Yet the Society, it seems, expects to get the necessary examination and certificate for nothing. But there is no reason that the Society should have any of its work done for nothing, its certificates of health among the rest. The charge for medical attendance is, I believe, correctly named in Mr. Johnson's letter; but it is for medical attendance strictly. Why, then, should it be made to include work which is the Society's, and in which the doctor has no interest?

In conclusion, I would only add that in their own interests we should advise medical men to reconsider their position in this respect. The poor we should always wish to see well attended, but we should equally like to see substantial men compelled to pay for themselves, and not, as at present, meanly receiving charity they should be ashamed to accept.—I am, etc.,

F.R.C.S. Ed.

## SOLUTION OF SALICYLIC ACID.

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers inform me whether water will dissolve (by boiling, for instance) as much as a quarter of an ounce of salicylic acid to two pints *without subsequent deposition*? If so, it may prove very useful as a preservative for pharmaceutical preparations in place of rectified spirit. I have hitherto used a solution containing one grain in the fluid ounce, and so far as my experience has gone, this has been sufficient to prevent decomposition; but, according to some, whose experience has, I suppose, been more extensive, this is not sufficient for permanent preparations. I have not the opportunity or leisure to make experiments on the subject, but there are probably those amongst your readers whose chemical knowledge will enable them to give the required information. I may just repeat, what I have previously and elsewhere stated at greater length, that a small quantity of chloral-hydrate (say, two grains and a half to one fluid ounce, that is, a quarter of an ounce to two pints) will permanently preserve solutions of antimony, morphia, etc.; and that, beyond its antiseptic purpose, the presence of so small a quantity of chloral in a draught, containing a medicinal quantity of a solution so preserved, requires no more consideration than does the presence of alcohol in mixtures dispensed from tinctures, and that, even were this not so with solutions of ordinary strength, the latter might be increased. My experience of the treatment of acute rheumatism (five consecutive cases) with salicylic acid and salicin has not been such as to encourage me to repeat the experiments. Until some better remedy is discovered, I shall rest well content with the anodyne treatment by opium or chloral. I think, however, that salicylic acid is likely to prove useful as a preservative of pharmaceutical preparations, that is, if a sufficiently strong and permanent aqueous solution be practicable. I should also be glad of a little information regarding salicylate of soda. Is it more soluble than the acid? Is it equally antiseptic? May I also ask if boric acid is really antiseptic? that is, will it, for instance, preserve a solution of antimony? According to my experience, it is a failure. Apologising for so far trespassing on your space,—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. J. MARSH.

Shrewsbury, December 22nd, 1876.

The tongue is moist and clean, teeth and gums healthy. There is considerable hyperæsthesia at the back of the throat, which is much congested, presenting deep cicatrices and marks of old ulceration after the fever. Her appetite is perfectly good. There is no degree of thirst, and no gastric symptoms complained of, such as sense of weight, pain, or flatulence. The bowels have been usually constive. The pulse is 84, weak and thready. The heart-sounds are normal, but anæmic *bruits* are heard in the neck on auscultation. Liquid food, as a rule, remains down better than solid; and the best results have been obtained from a diet consisting of beef-tea, jelly, isinglass, milk, and lime-water, given in small quantities, and occasionally a little champagne and ice; frequent nutritive enemata being also resorted to, so as to afford the stomach as much rest as possible. Drugs have proved most inefficient and useless, though the following have been most perseveringly tried, both singly and in combination—viz., bismuth, magnesia, hydrocyanic acid, nepoche, chlorodyne, sulphurous acid, hyposulphites, iodide of potassium, etc. In addition to these remedies, blisters and mustard-poultices were applied to the epigastrium, counterirritation over the vagi nerves in the neck, and the application of iodine. All alike proved equally ineffectual in controlling this obstinate symptom. Gargles of bromide of ammonium, etc., the application of solution of nitrate of silver, shared the same fate.

The case is still under treatment, whilst bougies are being passed, and a course of iodide of potassium tried. These last measures were recommended by a physician in London, but at present the case does not promise satisfactory results.—I am, etc.,

JUSTYN G. DOUGLAS, M.D., Surgeon to the  
Bournemouth Dispensary, etc.

January 7th, 1877.

MR. R. M. FAWCETT'S (Cambridge) letter has been placed in the hands of the Manager and General Secretary.

#### ROGERS'S DISINFECTING APPARATUS.

SIR,—Would some of your readers kindly say how Dr. Rogers's invention has been found to work? and oblige yours, etc.,  
T. LAFFAN, Consulting  
Cashel, Ireland, January 14th, 1877. Officer of Health.

Z. Z. asks—Will any of my professional brethren in country practice say whether they have found a two-wheeled or a four-wheeled chaise the more useful for every day work on roads only moderately hilly?

#### THE DRESSING OF WOUNDS.

SIR,—I must beg you kindly to allow me space for this letter, in answer to a communication from Mr. R. Davy in the JOURNAL of December 30th, on the Dressing of Wounds. In it Mr. Davy at once proceeds to assail Professor Lister for his well known but frequently misunderstood antiseptic treatment. But those of your readers who have walked the wards of the Royal Infirmary will be far from resigning the well achieved laurels Professor Lister has won, after a large experience, in favour of Mr. Davy's "open method", which literally means doing nothing in the way of dressing some of the most unhealthy wounds in hospital practice. Moreover, Mr. Davy's method of abstention has little to recommend its adoption, having only been tried for the last three years. Mr. Davy's anecdote, related on the authority of the great Ambrose Paré, is surely not tenable in the present day; no more is his quotation from Sir Astley Cooper. Neither applies to Lister; and the practice in which "layer after layer of compounds were heaped upon the raw surface," say of a stump, certainly forms no part of Lister's modern plan by carbolic acid. I may mention that Lister's method does not recognise "a host of lotions and ointments" either, and nothing can be cleaner or more effective than his antiseptic dressing. But I can quite understand that every one does not possess the manipulative skill and dexterity, together with the exact knowledge of the successive steps necessary for its success. If gentlemen like Mr. Davy would only do as their countryman Mr. Fairlie Clarke did before them, and visit Edinburgh, they would there find Professor Lister most courteous and happy to initiate them into his secret (see Mr. Fairlie Clarke's *Manual of Surgery*). Without this, they should not ridicule, nor tell the world that the Professor's "hobby has been ridden hard"—a hobby, if it be such, that has saved more lives than any single improvement in our day. But it will be observed that Mr. Davy discards every-day dressings, and "holds them in abhorrence." Mr. Davy's cases are too few to supersede what they are intended to, and most of them are so trivial that Lister himself would probably have dismissed them with a little water-dressing.\* As to the two cases of excision of the hip-joint mentioned, I submit they were not "hopeless" before operation, as many of Lister's were. In the latter's cases, it was sometimes judged that operative interference would be fatal; yet these did well in Mr. Lister's hands, scarcely a tablespoonful of pus oozing, while convalescence was rapid, and required to be seen to be appreciated. I would ask, How is it that by far the worst cases of scrofulous disease so frequently met with in the cold, variable climate of Scotland, do so well under Lister's care? And what induces continental professors to go out of their way to see for themselves and judge for themselves the true details of the method, with its result, as carried out in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh? Permit me to say, sir, that the want of more satisfactory results by this method, when practised by men who have not witnessed it for themselves under Lister, is suggested by a story that is told of a certain hospital surgeon, who was demonstrating to his students in the out-patient department the "utter worthlessness" of Gordon's splint in Colles's fracture, when a visitor present, a pupil of Dr. Gordon, stepped forward and observed, "I quite agree with you, sir, if the splint is to be applied in the reverse way intended by Dr. Gordon, or as you have applied it!"—Your obedient servant,

January 9th, 1877.

#### HOMO PLURIMARUM LITERARUM.

SIR,—In going my round of visits this morning, I had the enclosed literary curiosity put into my hands by one of my patients, with the request that I would tell him the meaning of all the large letters therein printed. I had to humbly confess my inability. Will any of your correspondents assist me, and enable me to satisfy future inquiries, by explaining in your JOURNAL the meaning of the wonderful titles?—Yours faithfully,

MEDICUS.

"Mr. —, ..... Dr. to Dr. Whalley, M.A., M.D. Erlangen, D.R.C.S., L.S.A., LL.M., M.B.M.R.A. England, 1855, by Examination and Diploma; formerly Assistant at the Leeds General Infirmary; Senior in Honours, Leeds School of Medicine; Registered 1859. No connection with the Medical Council. Not registered since 1865. Graduate in Medicine and Arts, University of Erlangen.—Folio. .... Not registered."

\* Mr Davy includes them in forming his criterion.

#### VACCINATION AS IN THE CRUCIBLE.

SIR,—Permit me to publish the theory with which I beg to indoctrinate my patients. An attack of small-pox and an efficient vaccination are equivalent—that is to say, he who has been vaccinated once may be considered to have had small-pox once, and is not likely to have it a second time; but as second attacks of small-pox occasionally happen, though always of a mild character, so an attack may occur after vaccination, also mildly. I have known of two instances where small-pox has recurred twice after veritable small-pox. This I have seen: a whole family vaccinated in infancy seized, during an epidemic, with variola. The number of pustules has been in direct proportion to the number of years that have elapsed since vaccination; the youngest child not having a dozen, the next twenty or thirty, and so on to the parents, who, being farthest removed from the protective power, have the largest number of all. One vaccination does for us no less and no more than one attack of small-pox; but that is a great deal. Bigotry, prejudice, and unreason still rear their heads. Let us pursue our good work, sustained by such a sentiment as this, which has reached me from a grateful patient by this morning's post: "The 'poor apothecary,' as you are pleased to call him, I consider one of the noblest workers in this world of toil."—I am, yours truly,  
Faversham, December 30th, 1876. ED. GARRAWAY.

A MEDICAL MAN.—Our distinguished contemporary is not quite correct, as the *Gazette de France* was published in 1632, under the patronage of Louis XIV, by a member of our profession, Theophrastus Renaudot.

MR. WILLIAMS (Manchester).—The Library of the College of Surgeons is rich in Transactions of learned societies, both at home and abroad. Will the following lines suit your purpose? They are by E. L. Bulwer.

"The past but lives inwards; a thousand ages  
Were blank, if books had not evoked their ghosts,  
And kept the pale embodied shades to warn us  
From fleshless lips."

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. H. Charlton Bastian, London; Dr. J. Matthews Duncan, Edinburgh; Dr. Ord, London; Dr. Bradbury, Cambridge; Dr. J. Hughlings Jackson, London; Dr. Foulis, Glasgow; F.R.L.S.; Dr. MacKendrick, Warrington; Dr. A. S. Taylor, London; Dr. Haynes, Malvern; J. M. B.; Dr. Bevan Lewis, Wakefield; Parish Medical Officer; Mr. R. B. Clayton, Torquay; L. H. G.; Mr. G. H. Coles, Shanghai; Dr. Cassells, Glasgow; Mr. Ulick J. Bourke, Netley; Mr. J. W. Herd, Bolton; Mr. H. B. Blackburn, Homerton; Mr. Whitcombe, Birmingham; Dr. Dean, Burnley; Mr. Frank E. Thicke, London; Mr. Arthur Cooper, London; Dr. Pye-Smith, London; Dr. George Wilson, Leamington; Mr. C. F. Maunder, London; Dr. Heywood Smith, London; A Public Vaccinator; Mr. A. Pain, London; Mr. Sidney Haynes, Stansted; The Registrar-General of England; Dr. Gowers, London; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; Dr. J. Milner Fothergill, London; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; W. W.; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Dr. A. A. Gore, Dublin; X. Y. Z.; Mr. J. M. Finny, Dublin; Dr. Munro, Battersea; Dr. James Morton, Glasgow; Mr. Philip Miall, Bradford; Dr. Hardwicke, Rotherham; Dr. Cornelius B. Fox, Chelmsford; Mr. J. F. Horne, Barnsley; Another Public Vaccinator; M.D.; Z.; Dr. Eaton, Cleator; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Dr. H. Marsh, London; The Secretary of the Obstetrical Society; Dr. McKenna, London; Our Paris Correspondent; Mr. McReddie, Wanstead; Dr. R. P. Cotton, London; Mr. Laffan, Cashel; Dr. Arthur Leared, London; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London; The Secretary of the Hunterian Society; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. Beach, Lower Clapton; Dr. Martin, Portlaw; Mr. Joseph Bell, Edinburgh; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Mr. Annandale, Edinburgh; Mr. Clover, London; M.D.Ed.; Sir Charles Trevelyan, London; Dr. Stephenson, Beverley; Mr. Fawcett, Cambridge; P. M. R.; Dr. Bodington, Birmingham; Dr. Dudfield, Kensington; Mr. Wright, London; Dr. Cayley, London; Mr. J. U. West, Stoke-upon-Trent; Mr. Haviland, Northampton; "Not a Militia Surgeon"; Mr. Hamilton Cartwright, London; L.R.C.P.L.; Mr. W. A. Skinner, London; A Member of the British Medical Association; Dr. J. S. Crichton, Arbroath; Mr. A. H. Jones, Northampton; Dr. Mackey, London; Dr. Whitelaw, Kirkintilloch; Veritas; Archdeacon Vesey, Huntingdon; Mr. Furneaux Jordan, Birmingham; Mr. J. N. Radcliffe, London; Mr. Thomas Wright, Nottingham; Dr. W. F. Wade, Birmingham; etc.

#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Diagnose und Therapie der Krankheiten des Menschen. Von Dr. Bernard Kraus. Wien: 1877.  
Bulletins et Mémoires de la Société Médicale des Hôpitaux de Paris. Tome Onzième, 2me Série, Année 1874. Paris: P. Asselin. 1875.  
Medicinal Plants. By Robert Bentley, F.L.S., and Henry Trimen, M.B., F.L.S. Part 16. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1877.