

Assam. Let him now turn to a map of Europe. It may not strike him at first sight that, leaving out Russia, Norway, and Sweden, the whole of the remainder of Europe does not cover a superficial area much larger than Hindustan. Dr. Hunter, in his interesting work, entitled the *Annals of Rural Bengal*, writes: "We are too much accustomed to speak of India as a single country, and of its inhabitants as a single nation, but the truth is, that as regards its history, its extent, and its population, India displays the diversities of a continent rather than of a single state." "The popular English mind, accustomed to regard the Indian Empire as a political unit among British dependencies, has come to look upon the component parts of that unit as historically and socially one." The natives of the north of India are quite as different from those of the south as the Dutch are from the Spaniards. The former are tall, and of a light-brown or olive complexion; the latter are small, and very dark. The religions, customs, and languages of different parts of this continent are totally dissimilar. To give an idea of the differences of language, I will just note the various words used among the many people to signify fire. Beginning in the south, the Tamul dialect (met with in the Madras Presidency) gives *nirappu*; the Maharatta word (used in Bombay) is *bistu*; the Bengalee calls it *agun*; the Hindu *ag*. (This is the usual word used by the English to their servants in Upper India.) In Orissa (a large district below Calcutta) it is called *nian*; among the Santhals (an aboriginal tribe to the west of Bengal) fire is called *sengel*; among the Gonds, another aboriginal tribe, it is *chik*; in the Pushtoo dialect (spoken in the far north of the Punjab, about Peshawur) it is *or*; if a traveller in Thibet wants fire he has to ask for *ma*; and in Cashmere, where several of our officers go shooting, he will not get it unless he tell his servant to bring him *nar*. There are many more dialects, but these will suffice. Then the characters used in writing are very diverse. The Tamul is very peculiar. The Hindu letters are nearly the same as the old Sanscrit (which is a dead language, but the classical one), and are read from left to right. The Oordoo (which is used by the higher classes) is the same as the Persian and Arabic, and is read from right to left. Under the head of religion, besides the different sects of Hindus (who are mostly idolators) we have the Buddhists (comparatively few) and the Jains. Then there is the Mahomedan, which has been brought into the country at a comparatively late period, by the northern conquerors. In the Bengal Presidency there are three Lieutenant-Governors, viz., of the Punjab, North-west Provinces, and Bengal proper. The latter rules over a territory and a population more than double that of the whole United Kingdom. In round numbers, there are in the whole of India about one hundred and sixty million Hindus, forty million Mahomedans, and a few millions of aborigines. I have thought it well to jot down these few statistics, to give to those readers who have not had occasion to feel interested hitherto about India a slight insight into the matter. It is hoped that they will not be considered out of place, but without going into needless details I wish to give a comprehensive account of this interesting land from a standpoint which, I believe, has not been taken before. I intend, in my next, to touch upon physical geography, and afterwards to consider some of the peculiarities of the different tribes, which I trust will be thought worth reading by those who have not studied the ethnology of the East.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held in Bishop Cosin's Library, Durham, on Thursday, July 26th, at 2 P.M.

G. H. PHILIPSON, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, June 12th, 1877.

### BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham, on Tuesday, June 26th, at 3 P.M. An Address will be delivered by the President, SAMPSON GAMGEE, Esq., F.R.S.Edin.

The annual dinner will also take place at the Midland Hotel, at 5 P.M. precisely, for the convenience of country members. Dinner tickets, exclusive of wine, 7s. 6d. each. Members intending to be present are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretaries on or before June 23rd, in order that suitable arrangements may be made.

JAMES SAWYER, M.D., } *Hon. Secretaries*.  
EDWARD MALINS, M.D., }

Birmingham, May 29th, 1877.

### SOUTHERN BRANCH.

THE fourth annual meeting of the Southern Branch will be held at the Royal Hotel, Winchester, on Wednesday, June 20th, 1877, at 1 P.M. An Address will be delivered by the President-elect, F. J. BUTLER, Esq., M.D.

During the afternoon, the members will have an opportunity of visiting the various places of interest in the locality.

The dinner will take place punctually at Five P.M. Tickets, 14s. each, including wine.

The Committee particularly request that those gentlemen who intend to be present at the dinner will send in their names to Mr. T. C. LANGDON, Winchester, on or before Monday, the 18th instant.

J. WARD COUSINS, M.D., *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer*.  
Southsea, June 6th, 1877.

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held in the Board Room of the Saffron Walden Hospital, on Tuesday, June 26th, at 2.15 P.M.: HENRY STEAR, Esq., President, in the Chair.

Gentlemen intending to read papers, or be present at the dinner, are requested to inform the Secretary on or before June 19th.

Dinner will take place at the Rose and Crown Hotel, at 6.15 P.M. Tickets (including wine), 12s. 6d. each.

J. B. BRADBURY, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.  
Corpus Buildings, Cambridge, May 28th, 1877.

### GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held on Tuesday, the 26th instant, in the Faculty Hall, 242, St. Vincent Street, at 2 P.M. The President, Dr. ALLEN THOMSON, will resign the Chair to the President-elect, Dr. G. H. B. MACLEOD, who will give an address on Surgery.

It is also expected that Dr. Allen Thomson will make some statements as to the work done at the recent meeting of the General Medical Council.

Glasgow, June 14th, 1876.

### YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Museum, York, on Wednesday, June 27th, at 2.45 P.M.

The members will dine at the Black Swan Hotel at 5 P.M. Tickets, 6s. 6d. each.

Gentlemen intending to bring forward communications, or to join the dinner, are requested at once to communicate with the Local Secretary.

W. PROCTER, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.  
24, Petergate, York, June 6th, 1877.

### EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Magistrates' Room, Diss, on Thursday, June 28th, at 2.30 P.M.: T. E. AMYOT, Esq., President, in the Chair.

Dinner at the King's Arms Hotel at 5 P.M. Tickets, 12s. 6d. each. The President kindly invites members to luncheon at his residence at One o'clock.

Members intending to read papers and cases, or to exhibit pathological specimens, or to join the dinner, are particularly requested to communicate as early as possible with one of the Honorary Secretaries, in order that proper notices may be given.

B. CHEVALLIER, M.D., Ipswich. } *Honorary Secretaries*.  
J. B. PITT, M.D., Norwich. }  
Norwich, June 1st, 1877.

### LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Medical School, Dover Street, Liverpool, on Wednesday, June 27th, at 1 P.M.: President, GEORGE WOODS, F.R.C.S.; President-elect, Dr. STEELE.

The dinner will take place at the Adelphi Hotel, at 5 P.M. Tickets (exclusive of wine), 7s. 6d. each. Gentlemen intending to be present are requested to send their names to the Secretary at once.

The following communications will be read:—1. A Note on the Extraction of Foreign Bodies from the Bladder: Mr. Reginald Harrison. 2. Muscular Pseudo-hypertrophy in a case of Hemiplegia: Dr. Ross. 3. On the Extirpation of Cancerous Glands: Mr. W. Mitchell Banks. 4. Mr. R. Parker will show a patient from whom

half the tongue and upper jaw have been removed. He will also exhibit a series of Microscopic Specimens illustrative of Surgical Tumours. 5. Dr. Glynn will show Roussel's New Transfusion Instrument.

Notice of papers (which must not exceed fifteen minutes) should be forwarded at once to the Honorary Secretary.

D. J. LEECH, *Honorary Secretary*.

96, Mosley Street, Manchester, June 11th, 1877.

#### BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE sixth ordinary meeting of the session was held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday evening, May 24th: Dr. GOODRIDGE, President, in the Chair. There were also present forty-four members and one visitor.

*New Members.*—The following gentlemen were duly elected members of the Association and of the Branch: G. F. GILES, M.D., Cotham; Surgeon-Major C. M. JESSOP, Clifton; G. J. PARKER, Esq., Clifton; and J. LUDFORD WHITE, M.A., F.R.C.S., Bath.

*Restraint of Hæmorrhage.*—Mr. N. C. DOBSON introduced a discussion on the restraint of hæmorrhage during and subsequently to operations on the limbs. A very animated debate ensued, in which Messrs. Stockwell, Prichard, Tibbits, Michell Clarke, Hopkins, Lansdown, J. H. Crisp, and Dr. Marshall took part, after which Mr. Dobson replied.

*The Annual Meeting.*—On the motion of Mr. BARTRUM, seconded by Mr. TIBBITS, it was unanimously resolved, that the annual meeting of the Branch should be held at Bristol, on Wednesday, June 27th, instead of on the day previously named on the cards.

#### EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE twenty-first annual meeting of the above Branch was held at the Hull Infirmary, on Wednesday, May 23rd, at 1 P.M.: President, R. H. B. NICHOLSON, Esq.

*Cases, etc.*—The following cases and papers were read.

1. Address by the PRESIDENT.
2. A Case of Innominate Aneurism, with specimen. By Dr. KING.
3. A Case of Cheloid Tumour, with photograph. By Mr. KEETLEY.
4. Parotid Tumours. By Dr. LUNN.
5. A Case of Empyema, treated by the Aspirator. By Dr. DALY.
6. Pathological Specimens: Aneurism. By Mr. DIX.

*Dinner.*—The members dined together at the Vittoria Hotel. After the dinner, a marble time-piece was presented to Mr. Nicholson, as a recognition of his services as Secretary for a period of eight years.

#### SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE annual meeting was held in the County Hospital, Canterbury, on Thursday, May 24th, at 3 o'clock: Mr. SHEPPARD in the Chair. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the honorary secretary, Mr. Tyson kindly undertook to discharge his duties.

*Secretary.*—Mr. Edward Thurston was re-elected for the ensuing year as the Honorary Secretary for the district.

*The Places of Meeting* were fixed for—Ramsgate in September; Hythe (special) in October; Canterbury in November; Dover in March; Canterbury in May. Mr. Samuel Woodman, of Ramsgate, was chosen as Chairman of the Ramsgate meeting.

*The Ethical Committee*, consisting of Drs. Bowles, Parsons, Wilks, Messrs. Hicks, Reid, Rigden, and Thornton, were re-elected.

*Communications.*—1. Mr. WACHER read notes of Two Cases of *Post Partum* Hæmorrhage treated with the Perchloride of Iron.

2. Mr. RAVEN read a paper on a Recent Epidemic of Variola.

*Dinner.*—The members afterwards dined together at the Fleur-de-lis Hotel.

#### SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE twenty-first annual meeting of the South Midland Branch of the British Medical Association was held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, Northampton, on Thursday, May 31st, at 2.30 P.M.: W. MOXON, Esq., President, in the Chair. About twenty gentlemen were previously entertained to luncheon at the President's house at 1.30 P.M.

The President was introduced to the Chair by Dr. Bryan, in the absence of H. W. Sharpin, Esq. (Bedford), ex-President.

*New Members.*—The following gentlemen were proposed in due form as new members: J. Bailey, Esq., General Lunatic Asylum, Northampton; Dr. O'Farrell, The Barracks, Northampton; and S. W. Morris, Esq., Thrapstone.

*The Secretaryship.*—The Secretary's report was then read, at the conclusion of which the members present learned with deep regret that Dr. Bryan had made up his mind to relinquish the office of Honorary Secretary, a post which he had held for eighteen years.

It was proposed by Mr. WATKINS, seconded by Dr. WALKER, and carried unanimously: "That Dr. Bryan be requested to act as Treasurer; and that Mr. G. Kirby Smith be requested to act as Honorary Secretary, either with or without the aid of a co-Secretary at Bedford, as may be determined at the autumnal meeting." Mr. K. Smith agreed to accept the office, and to commence the duties forthwith.

*Communications.*—The PRESIDENT then read a very able address, referring to the Medical Defence Association and other medical topics.

Dr. T. J. WALKER read a paper, illustrating the value of Salicylate of Ammonia in Acute Rheumatism, Gout, and other allied affections.

Dr. FRANCIS read some observations on a singular case of Priapism of six weeks' duration.

Dr. NEWMAN of Stamford furnished some Notes on a Case of Biliary Calculus, which were read by Mr. HAVILAND, as Dr. Newman was compelled to leave early.

Dr. BUSZARD read some cases of Tic Douloureux.

Time would not permit the reading of some valuable papers by Dr. BRYAN and Dr. PRIOR.

*Votes of Thanks.*—A vote of thanks to the readers of papers was proposed by Mr. MACDONALD and carried. A vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. MASH to the President, for his conduct in the Chair; also a vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. H. TERRY, to the Officers of the Branch and Committee of Management for past services; and, on the motion of Dr. FRANCIS, a vote of thanks was given to the Honorary Secretaries.

*Dinner.*—At the close of the proceedings, some of the gentlemen adjourned to an excellent dinner at the George Hotel, where the usual loyal and other toasts were duly honoured.

*The Next Meeting* will be held at Aylesbury in September or October.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### EXAMINERS AT ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY.

SIR,—I wish to draw attention to the fact that, out of six examiners recently appointed in the Faculty of Medicine at Aberdeen, only two are non-resident in that city. It seems to me that the examiners appointed to act with the professors should come from outside Aberdeen. Such is the case at Cambridge and other Universities. Could not the University of Aberdeen secure the services of some of its graduates in London and elsewhere? Now-a-days, the regulation of examinations depends to a great extent upon the eminence of the examiners: it is therefore incumbent on all examining bodies to make use of the best available material. The professors at Aberdeen are distinguished men; the examiners should approach their standard as nearly as possible.—Yours faithfully,

London, June 1877.

AN ABERDEEN GRADUATE.

### THE HOMŒOPATHIC SCHISM.

SIR,—I confess that I read with some surprise Mr. Bradley's letter on this subject in your last issue. He broaches the proposal that the members of what he calls the "moderate" party of homœopathic practitioners may, perhaps, be included in the invitation to the forthcoming annual meeting of the Association. It does not appear very clear through whom he would propose that such invitations be issued; but I venture to think that, if the local Committee or other officials took it upon themselves to perform this act of kindness, they would be wise to keep the matter a profound secret until the meeting shall be over.

It is a very curious circumstance, that every now and again we meet with men who can scarce understand why this old-standing homœopathic feud should exist, and who appear extremely solicitous that matters should be made up. But we all know that the tenets of homœopathy are the most arrant nonsense that ever was uttered; and, if a man deliberately announce himself to be a professor of this nonsense, one of two conclusions must be drawn concerning him. The profession did well to protest against this folly, and to protect itself

from any association with it. It becomes a hundred times worse, however, if, as we hear now, there is a party among the ranks of homœopathy who profess what they do not practise. Why do these still style themselves homœopaths? Evidently it suits their purpose to do so; but then —. Again the profession does right to say No.

To my mind, sir, the position we have taken up is unassailable. There is, besides, not the slightest call for the shilly-shally mode of dealing with this pretence which we hear too much of at the present time. We profess to treat diseases by whatever means experience tells us we may best succeed, knowing sadly too little of physiological and pathological processes to care one jot about that old woman's foible similars and dissimilars. Let those who practise them say so; but let them not tell the public something else, and we shall receive them with open arms.—Yours, etc.,

JAMES HARDIE.

Manchester, June 11th, 1877.

SIR,—I have been so frequently asked the meaning of the letter with the above heading which appeared in your last week's issue, that I am constrained to ask for the insertion of the following brief explanations.

Although it is difficult to understand the logic of the process, there can be no doubt that many homœopaths of the present day believe both in the law of similars and in the law of contraries; there can be equally little doubt that the practice of such believers will differ little, if at all, from the practice of the genuine Hippocratic disciples; and it seems irrational to exclude such men from our consultations and discussions for simply having a little more faith than some others. Indeed, this conduct seems even ridiculous when we reflect that to many of us the term "allopath" is as unsavoury as that of "homœopath". Many quite orthodox practitioners disbelieve in the law of contraries as strongly as in the law of similars, and are of opinion that, if there be a law underlying the one or other, or both, we have yet to discover it; that, in both cases, there are nothing but superficial likenesses or contraries on which the so-called laws are based, yet it is never suggested that such men should not themselves be met, on account of their scepticism, or that they should refuse to meet any strictly credulous allopathist. Homœopathy has probably as much to recommend it as allopathy on the ground of ratiocination; neither the one nor the other is anything but a meaningless term; and, this being so, should not we, the followers of rational medicine, rejoice to note a return to reason on the part of one section of those who have gone astray? It is those who either abandon the doctrine of the law of similars, or, like Dr. Wyld, who, while clinging to it, embrace at the same time the allopathic dogma of contraries, that I felt we might approach, and perhaps invite to our annual gathering, indifferent whether they retained the name of homœopath or not. I cannot but feel that, if we refuse to accept the effort at reconciliation now afforded, we are ourselves in some danger of changing places with the homœopaths, and ourselves becoming the stupid party who pin their faith to old cranks, like *causâ sublatâ tollitur effectus* or *contraria contrariis curantur*, and, by so doing, make way for the more rational members of homœopathy, who by and by will, doubtless, abandon all belief in such pseudo-medical laws, along with their own silly crotchets, and trust alone to the light of reason and experience, waiting for a riper time to enunciate a truer law.—I am, sir, yours, etc.,

Manchester, June 12th, 1877.

S. M. BRADLEY.

#### REMOVAL OF TRACHEOTOMY-TUBES.

SIR,—If Mr. R. Clement Lucas refer to the JOURNAL (July 8th, 1876), he will find that the idea of fishing up a tracheotomy-tube from the windpipe by means of a hooked wire originated in the Westminster, and not in the Middlesex Hospital.

Your obedient servant, RICHARD DAVY,  
Surgeon to the Westminster Hospital.

### MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following members of the College, having undergone the necessary examinations, were admitted Fellows at a meeting of the Council on the 14th instant.

Alexander, William, M.D.Q.U.Ireland, Liverpool (not a member)  
Benne, William H., L.R.C.S.Lond., James Street, Buckingham Gate  
Birch, Edward A., L.R.C.S.Lond., Manchester  
Colgate, Henry, M.D.Lond., Eastbourne  
Duncan, Andrew, M.D.Lond., Henrietta Street, Covent Garden  
Edmunds, Walter, M.B.Cantab., Fairfax Road, Hampstead  
Gould, Alfred P., M.B.Lond., Gower Street  
Harries, T. Davies, L.R.C.S.Lond., Aberystwyth

Hobson, Lewis John, M.D.Lond., Bedford  
Outley, Walter, M.B.Lond., Nottingham Place, W.  
Pratt, William, M.D.Liege, Newtown, Montgomeryshire  
Ransohoff, Joseph, M.D., Ohio, Cincinnati  
Rendall, John, L.R.C.S.Lond., Southampton  
Southam, Frederick A., L.S.A., Manchester

Six candidates having failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Court of Examiners, were referred to their professional studies for twelve months.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, June 7th, 1877.

Burgess, William Milner, Harlesden  
Giles, Bernard Faraday, Canonbury

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

Macdonald, Henry Murray W., St. Thomas's Hospital  
Patterson, George Henry, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

#### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

BATH UNION—Medical Officer for the Workhouse and First District.  
BRIGHTON and HOVE DISPENSARY—Resident House-Surgeon. Salary, £130 per annum, with furnished apartments, coals, gas, and attendance. Applications to be sent in on or before July 2nd.  
CITY OF LONDON LYING-IN HOSPITAL—Consulting Surgeon. Applications to be sent in on or before the 19th instant.  
EAST RIDING ASYLUM, Beverley—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with furnished apartments, board, and attendance. Applications to be sent in on or before the 23rd instant.  
HAVERSTOCK HILL and MALDEN ROAD PROVIDENT DISPENSARY—Dispenser and Assistant-Secretary. Salary, £80 per annum, with lodgings, coals, and gas. Applications to be sent in on or before the 18th inst.  
ISLE OF WIGHT INFIRMARY, Ryde—House-Surgeon and Secretary. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 19th instant.  
MACCLESFIELD GENERAL INFIRMARY—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £70 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications to be sent in on or before the 23rd instant.  
NEW HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, Marylebone Road—Junior Physician; also, Resident Medical Officer. Women only eligible. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodging, washing, and attendance.  
RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY, Oxford—House-Physician. Salary, £105 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications to be sent in on or before the 25th instant.  
RIPON DISPENSARY and HOUSE OF RECOVERY—Resident House-Surgeon and Dispenser. Salary, £100 per annum, with furnished apartments, coals, and attendance. Applications to be made on or before the 16th instant.  
ROYSTON UNION—Medical Officer for No. 5 District. Salary, £80 per annum, and extra fees. Applications to be made on or before the 19th instant.  
WEST SUSSEX, EAST HANTS, AND CHICHESTER INFIRMARY—Surgeon-Dentist. Applications to be made on or before the 18th instant.  
WEST LONDON HOSPITAL—Assistant-Physician and Assistant-Surgeon. Applications to be sent in on or before the 22nd instant.

#### 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.

LYSTER.—On June 2nd, at 72, Devonshire Road, Prince's Park, Liverpool, the wife of C. E. Lyster, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., of a daughter.

##### MARRIAGES.

ALLIOTT-BEVINGTON.—On June 7th, at the Parish Church, Croydon, by the Rev. J. D. Hawksley, Chaplain to the Three Counties' Asylum, Bedford, \*Alexander John Allott, M.B.Cantab., of Sevenoaks, to Florence, sixth daughter of the late Alexander Bevington, of Palace Road, Streatham Hill.  
NAPIER-MELLIS.—At Seaview House, Fraserburgh, on June 6th, by the Rev. Wm. Paterson, Alexander Disney Leith Napier, M.B., C.M., second son of the late Thomas Napier, of Montrose, to Jessie, eldest daughter of John Mellis, M.R.C.S.Eng.—No cards.  
POLLARD-HAIG.—On June 12th, at St. Chrysostom's Church, Liverpool, \*Frederick Pollard, M.D.Lond., of Richmond Terrace, Liverpool, to Katharine, only daughter of the late Robert Haig, Esq., of Edinburgh.  
MACDONALD-FLETCHER.—At St. George's Episcopal Church, York Place, Edinburgh, on June 12th, by the Rev. A. E. Watson, Alexander Dall MacDonald, M.D., Dumfries, to Janet, eldest daughter of the late Joseph Fletcher of Kelton House, Dumfries-shire, and Whitehaven, Cumberland.  
SAUNDERS-PHILLIPPO.—On May 23rd, at the Parish Church, Kingston, Jamaica, Arthur Rich Saunders, to Emma Louise, daughter of J. Cecil Philippo, M.D.

THE GREAT ORMOND STREET CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.—Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, upon her last birthday, sent a valuable present of clothing and toys for distribution to the children in the "Helena" Ward at this hospital. The "Helena" Ward is occupied entirely by little girls of from two to ten years of age, and bears the name of the Princess by special permission. The patients have on several previous occasions been honoured with gifts sent by Her Royal Highness. A new wing forming the second portion of the enlarged hospital is nearly completed, and will shortly be opened for public inspection.

## OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

<b>MONDAY.....</b>	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.
<b>TUESDAY.....</b>	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.
<b>WEDNESDAY..</b>	St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Mary's, 1.30 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—King's College, 2 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.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 P.M.
<b>THURSDAY....</b>	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), 4 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.
<b>FRIDAY.....</b>	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.
<b>SATURDAY....</b>	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, 1.30 P.M.—Royal Free, 9 A.M. and 2 P.M.

## MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

**FRIDAY.**—Quekett Microscopical Club (University College, Gower Street), 8 P.M. Ordinary Meeting.

## 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.

## TREATMENT OF PRURITUS ANI.

**SIR**,—Can any of your readers suggest anything likely to prove of benefit in the following case of obstinate pruritus? My patient, a gentleman long a resident in a hot climate, now aged 45, since his return to England, more than a year ago, has suffered uninterruptedly from an itching of the skin at, and four inches around, the anus. The irritation is at all times annoying him, but is worse when warm in bed, or after horse exercise. Formerly a free-liver, to which he perhaps irrationally attributes his present affection, the gentleman is now an abstainer from alcohol in every form; and latterly, by my advice, has dieted himself most carefully, giving up coffee and tobacco altogether. When abroad, he had dysentery several times, but now enjoys robust health. His liver is slightly enlarged, but otherwise apparently sound: not a trace of sugar or other abnormality in the urine. The pruritus commenced soon after reaching England; but his father he declares to have been at one time, to his certain knowledge, a sufferer from the same trouble in India. I have failed, after most careful and repeated examination, to detect either animal or vegetable parasites, or to trace the presence of oxyurides; and no syphilitic history is to be elicited. He has been treated by others, before myself, without obtaining relief; and I am, therefore, constrained to lay the matter before such of my *confrères* as may have had more experience than I have in these cases.

Externally, I have given a fair trial to almost everything I could think of, on all sorts of tacks. Soothing applications, borax, prussic acid, bran- and oatmeal-baths, lead-lotion, and belladonna extract, with more irritating ones, such as glycerine, mercurial lotion, fullers' earth, bromide of potassium, acetic and sulphuric acids, have all proved useless; the only relief he has had, and that falling on the third application, being from the solution of chloral-hydrate with camphor. Bitter and soothing injections, and sedative suppositories, have had no effect upon the extra-anal irritation.

Internally, bromide of potassium, arsenic and iodide of iron, taraxacum, with hepatic alteratives and aperients, antonine, and, as a *dernier ressort*, tar-capsules, have been successively administered with absolutely no effect; and I begin to feel somewhat ashamed of such shifting and unsuccessful drugging. That my patient has not ere this tired of being experimented upon—nay, is even wishful I should try again—is some proof how very real the torment is to him. Can any one help me?—Yours truly,

F. ARNOLD LRES.

## OCCLUSION OF THE VAGINA.

**REGARDING** a case of occlusion of the vagina, extending from the urethra downwards, but not interfering with the meatus urethrae, "W. D." asks: Would any member kindly give his experience (1) as to whether it is best to operate now in a child of three years of age, or to leave it until menstruation comes? (2) as to the best mode of operation and treatment.

**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.

## UNPROFESSIONAL ADVERTISING.

**IN** the *Western Gazette* of June 4th, a misunderstanding between two medical men is set forth, as an advertisement, in most unbecoming terms. It appears that Mr. Garland of Yeovil was summoned to attend a child with a broken leg. As he was not at home, the messenger was referred to his assistant. When the latter called at the patient's house, he found that Mr. Ptolemy Colmer had attended and applied splints to the child's leg. Seeing that the parents were very poor, he said that the hospital would be the best place for the little patient. To this the mother agreed; and the child was accordingly sent there, still wearing Mr. Colmer's splints.

Thereupon Mr. Colmer wrote to Mr. Garland, asking for an explanation, and requesting that his splints might be returned. In reply, Mr. Garland said that he had heard nothing about the matter till he received Mr. Colmer's letter, that it was his pupil who had visited the case, and who, observing the poverty of the child's home, had suggested that it should be sent to the hospital. When admitted, the child was not Mr. Garland's patient. Of course, the splints were returned in due time.

No doubt, Mr. Colmer's consent ought to have been obtained before the child was taken to the hospital. But this mistake on the assistant's part might easily have been set right by a few words of explanation. Both Mr. Colmer's letter and the manner in which he has inserted the correspondence in the advertising columns of a local newspaper are quite at variance with the dignity, and even the respectability, of the profession. Could not the College of Physicians of Edinburgh, of which he is a Licentiate, take notice of such unprofessional advertising?

As there is a "Madame Colmer, M.D. (U.S.)", also of Yeovil, who advertises "Herbal Purifying Life Pills", an "Universal Ointment", and an "Infallible Worm Medicine", Mr. Ptolemy Colmer ought to be particularly careful to avoid the advertising columns of the local newspapers, lest ignorant persons should confound him with Madame Colmer, M.D., whose "eclectic remedies" are, we are told, "the marvel of the world, and the greatest wonder of the age".

## THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS' LIBRARY.

**SIR**,—I am glad to see your remarks on the opening of this library in the evening in a recent number of the *JOURNAL*. I believe it would be found a great convenience to many if the library were open on two or three evenings during the week.—I am, etc.,

B. H. S.

## PRACTICE IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

**BENVENUTO CELLINI** relates (Goethe's translation, book 1, ch. 5 and 11; and book 4, ch. 5).—There arrived a great surgeon in Rome named Master Jacob da Carpi; this celebrated man cured among others, especially desperate cases of the French evil. . . . He was very learned and spoke surprisingly concerning medicine. The Pope (Clement VII) desired that he should enter into his service, but he replied, that he would enter into the service of no man, but those who had need of him must find him out. He was a crafty man, and it was well for him that he left Rome; for a few months afterwards all those whom he had cured found themselves in a worse plight than before. He would certainly have been murdered had he remained. The author himself suffered from the same complaint, with apparently syphilitic ophthalmitis, so that he was unable to see, and thereby got into trouble with the pope from being unable to proceed with his holiness's work. Being summoned to the palace, after having excused himself, a nobleman who was present inquired his name:—"Benvenuto I am called, answered I. He replied, This time I am for you benvenuto (welcome). Take lilies, with stalks and flowers, and distil with a slow fire, and with the liquid thus obtained bathe the eyes several times a day, and by this means you will certainly be cured. The pope spoke thereupon a few friendly words, and I went half consoled away. But without doubt I must owe my disease of the eyes to the beautiful maiden I had by me when I was robbed. More than four months the disease was latent, and then showed itself with force all at once. It did not appear as usual, but rather I was covered with red pimples as large as a penny (Roman money). The doctors did not understand the disease, notwithstanding I had told them the cause and my opinion of it. For a time I allowed myself to be dealt with after their manner, but no good came of it. At last, I determined to take the [holy] word, in opposition to those whom we must hold for the physicians of Rome. After I had taken this medicine with much care and regularity, I felt great mitigation, so that in the course of a fortnight I was cured, and felt as sound as a fish. After this, as winter approached, wishing to amuse myself, I took my gun and went shooting, but the rain and the wind kept me in the low grounds, so that in a few days a tenfold greater evil befel me than the first. Now I placed myself again in the hands of the physicians, and was by their medicines constantly made worse. I had taken a fever and determined to use the wood again. The physicians opposed this, and asserted that if I commenced the remedy during the course of the fever I should be dead in a week; but I acted with the same order and foresight as previously. After I had drunk of the holy water of the wood for four days, the fever entirely left me, and I felt the greatest improvement. Years subsequently to this, when in the service of the Medici family at Florence, the author being very diligently engaged on his Perseus, it happened that "a splinter of the finest steel entered my right eyeball so deep that it could not be withdrawn, and I thought for certain that I must lose the sight of my eye. After several days, I called in Master Raphael Pili, the surgeon, who took two live doves, and when he had laid me on my back on a table, pierced a vein that these creatures have under the wing, so that the blood flew into my eye, from which I quickly felt myself strengthened. In two days time, the splinter came out and my sight was better. As now the feast of Sta. Lucia approached—it was three days hence—I made a golden eye out of French money, and caused it to be made an offering to the saint by one of my six nieces, and through her I thanked God and Sta. Lucia."

## ETHER-INHALERS.

SIR,—Ormsby's ether-inhaler was used last week by Mr. Robinson of Sheffield on two patients of mine for scirrhus.

The first, a highly nervous woman of sixty-five years of age, dreaded the idea of being "chloroformed", and succeeded twice in pulling the inhaler from her face for some seconds; but still became quite ready for operation in about four minutes. A large portion of breast was removed, which made the operation of some duration; at intervals, the inhaler was lifted completely away from the face—in all, perhaps, for five minutes—yet two ounces of ether, specific gravity 717, proved sufficient for the completion of the operation, and allowed her three or four minutes after the last withdrawal of the inhaler to recover her senses.

The second case was that of a single woman, aged 45, who exhibited no fear of the anæsthetic; and, as a smaller portion of breast in her case required removal, only three-quarters of an ounce of the ether was poured into the inhaler, which was placed firmly upon the face, the aperture being gradually closed in a few seconds. In less than two minutes, I commenced the incision, and finished putting in the last suture (just as the patient became sensitive to pain) without the addition of more ether. The usual precautions were taken as to diet, etc.; but in both cases vomiting of a clear greenish fluid occurred. Large mucous rales were heard in the latter patient, a sufferer from severe asthma, but the face remained unaltered throughout.—Believe me, sir, your obedient servant, FRED. ELSOM.

Whitwell, Derbyshire, June 11th, 1877.

PRACTITIONER.—There would be no advantage in the delay.

## HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT.

SIR,—Comparisons may sometimes be invidious, but they are frequently necessary and useful. The Northampton and Bradford Friendly Societies are advertising for medical officers at remuneration not superior—all told—to that of railway drivers. The Bradford Society also wants a dispenser able to prescribe at less than the wages of a stoker; but, if a dispenser be competent to prescribe, why seek medical officers at three times the cost? For their own sakes, I would advise those members of the profession whom it may concern to have nothing to do with these medical club unions, as they will certainly lose caste in the profession by so doing, and the prospective advantages as regards private practice of such employment are more apparent than real. If the clubs are foolish enough to suppose they can get competent medical aid at less than its market value, that is their look-out. As a rule, they get young and inexperienced, or elderly but unsuccessful men—the waifs and strays of the profession.—Yours faithfully, June 9th, 1877. "LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP."

## FUNCTIONAL HEART-DISTURBANCE.

SIR,—With reference to the case of "A. B.", functional heart-disturbance, page 736 of your JOURNAL, allow me to mention the case of a gentleman aged 77, two years under my treatment, who suffers from occasional attacks of palpitation of the heart; his pulse, which is usually 60 P.M., rising suddenly to 110 or 120. There is no organic disease of any organ. After various medicines proved to be without the least effect, I tried compression of both carotid arteries ten months ago, and the palpitations immediately ceased to a normal pulse, only a little quicker (70) after the attack than before.

I succeeded since in at least thirty attacks on the same patient, and never failed to stop the palpitations. Sometimes they did not cease immediately, but I then had to repeat the compression several times and then succeeded. I never make the compression longer than a few seconds, thus avoiding deeper anæmia of the brain and fainting.

I cannot quite account for the physiological mechanism, as there are different explanations possible: 1. Repercussion of the blood-wave to the heart; 2. Action on the medulla oblongata; 3. Action on the pneumogastric nerve.

I should be very glad to hear of other cases.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, Baden-Baden, June 10th, 1877. DR. SCHLIEP.

## HOME HOSPITALS.

SIR,—By the praiseworthy exertions of Mr. Henry C. Burdett, of the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, there is every probability the idea of establishing hospitals in the metropolis for pay-patients will be carried into effect. Although such hospitals would be of great value for the reception of certain surgical cases, yet their chief use would be for the isolation of infectious diseases. In my paper on a New Mode of Hospital Construction, which I had the honour of reading at the annual general meeting of the British Medical Association in 1871, I made a similar suggestion, as will be seen in the following paragraph, which I quote from the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, May 11th, 1872.

"Although the building just described is intended for the reception of all kinds of cases, I would venture to suggest the advisability of making additions of this character to existing hospitals, for the reception of infectious cases from the general wards, thus locating without intensifying infection—a condition which does not obtain in our fever hospitals. I would also advise the erection of such buildings for the upper and middle classes of society, so that infectious cases may be removed thither from private residences, and thus probably prevent the spread of infection in families—the patients to be treated by their own private medical attendants, and to be charged moderately for board and lodging, nurse, etc."

As it is not in the power of many of your readers to refer to the JOURNAL of the above date, and there may be those who would wish to be acquainted with the nature of my hospital plans, I here supply a short description from the Catalogue of the British Section of the International Exhibition, Philadelphia, 1876.

"This plan consists of a substantial building containing a smaller one, the side and end spaces between the two forming corridors. The inner building is made of glass (toughened, if procurable), or enamelled sheet-iron and glass, fixed in iron framework, and is subdivided so as to form two rows of compartments, each compartment having an entrance from the corridor. Efficient means are provided for the inlet of fresh air and the extraction of foul air, and for warming the building. By this plan, each patient is surrounded with air uncontaminated by himself, by his fellow-patients, or by the building, the materials of which the compartments are made being non-absorbent, and the ventilation constant and complete. Although each patient would be isolated, he would not feel lonely, as he could see and converse with his neighbour through the glass partition. The nature of the partitions also enables the nurse to see the patients through either row of compartments. This plan is especially adapted for the reception of wounded patients, for a fever hospital, and a lying-in hospital. (See BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, May 11th, 1872; November 15th, 1873; September 26th, 1874; January 30th, 1875; June 10th, 1875.)"

With this method of hospital construction, the in-coming air can be purified and the out-going air disinfected, if necessary, as in cases of scarlatina, etc. The

friends of the patients could pay visits with very little chance of receiving infection, as they could remain in the corridors and yet see and converse with the patients through the fronts of the glass compartments. The arrangement of the corridors would not only prevent the compartments being exposed to extremes of temperature, but would also prevent external sounds injuriously affecting the patients.

If the proposed "home hospitals" are to find favour with the public, they must be constructed in a manner that shall afford greater safety to the patients than any of our existing public hospitals; for if the various forms of blood-poisoning, consequent on the vitiated atmosphere of a hospital, should manifest themselves in these new establishments, medical men will be very wary in sending patients there to undergo surgical operations, and that would lead to anything but a financial success.

Trusting the forthcoming meeting at the Mansion House (on the 27th instant), under the presidency of the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, may come to a practical decision in favour of the above undertaking.—I have the honour to be, sir, yours obediently, HENRY GREENWAY.

Plymouth, June 9th, 1877.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Birmingham Daily Post; The York Herald; The Bridlington Quay Gazette; The Scarborough Daily Post; The Blyth Weekly News; The Glasgow Herald; The Malvern News; The Liverpool Porcupine; The Sheffield and Rotherham Independent; The Liverpool Mercury; The Carlisle Journal; The Merthyr Express; The Sussex Daily Post; The Sheffield Daily Telegraph; The Nottingham Journal; The Manchester Free Lance; The Belfast News Letter; The Manchester Courier; The Macclesfield Courier; The North Wales Chronicle; The Sunderland Daily Post; The Western Daily 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:—

Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, London; Dr. W. Rutherford, Edinburgh; Dr. Edis, London; Dr. George Johnson, London; Dr. J. B. Bradbury, Cambridge; Mr. Balmanno Squire, London; Mr. Daniel Jacob, Derby; Dr. J. Milner Fothergill, London; Mr. S. M. Bradley, Manchester; Dr. G. F. Elliott, Hull; Look before you Leap; Ex Tenebris Lux; Mr. Greenway, Plymouth; Dr. Bailey, Stourbridge; Dr. Madge, London; Dr. MacLaren, Edinburgh; Dr. McKendrick, Glasgow; Dr. Goodhart, London; Dr. D. J. Leech, Manchester; Mr. Richard Davy, London; Mr. J. B. Williams, Hull; Dr. A. E. Aust Lawrence, Bristol; Dr. J. Hughlings Jackson, London; Mr. Carsten Holthouse, Balham; Dr. E. Symes Thompson, London; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Mr. N. A. Humphreys, London; Dr. Joseph Bell, Edinburgh; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; Dr. W. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; W.; The Registrar-General of England; Mr. Wanklyn, London; M.D.; Dr. Tripe, Hackney; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Mr. Howard Marsh, London; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; The Secretary of the Obstetrical Society; Mr. Lord Hampstead; Mr. W. J. Phillips, Rothsay; Mr. Elson, Whitwell; Dr. Fairbank, Windsor; Mr. F. Mason, London; Dr. Brown, Rochester; Mr. William Pratt, Newtown; Mr. Monckton, Tunbridge Wells; Dr. J. Brown, Coventry; Dr. James Ross, Manchester; Dr. G. Scott, Southampton; Mr. W. E. Grayson, Sheffield; Dr. Schliep, Baden-Baden; Dr. A. Macaldowie, Hartshill; Dr. Banham, Sheffield; Mr. Jones, Manchester; Dr. Scott, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. Hardie, Manchester; the Secretary of the Statistical Society; Dr. Parsons, Dover; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. S. M. Bradley, Manchester; Dr. Hilliard, London; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. H. F. Eagle, London; Dr. W. R. Smith, Sheffield; Mr. Walter Lattey, Southam; Dr. Philipson, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. J. H. Wathen, Fishguard; Mr. Eastes, London; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London; etc.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Treatment of Spina Bifida by a New Method. By James Morton, M.D. Glasgow: James Maclehose.

Clinical Lectures on Diseases of the Liver, Jaundice, and Abdominal Dropsy. By Charles Murchison, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S. Second Edition. London: Longmans, Green, and Co.

The History, Products, and Processes of the Alkali Trade. By Charles Thomas Kingzett. Twenty-three Illustrations. London: Longmans, Green, and Co.

A Guide to Therapeutics. By Robert Farquharson, M.D. Edin. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1876.

Purification of Water-Carried Sewage. By Henry Robinson and C. Mellor. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1877.

Sea-Air and Sea-Bathing: their Influences on Health. By Chas. Parsons, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1877.

Thomas De Quincy: his Life and Writings, with unpublished Correspondence. By H. A. Page. London: J. Hogg and Co. 1877.

General Index to the New York Medical Journal, from April 1865 to June 1876. By James B. Hunter, M.D. New York: D. Appleton and Co.

Tonic Treatment of Syphilis. By E. L. Keyes, A.M., M.B. New York: D. Appleton and Co.

Sanitas Sanitatum, et omnia Sanitas. By Richard Metcalfe, F.S.S. Vol. i. London: Co-operative Printing Company. 1877.

Cyclopædia of the Practice of Medicine. By Dr. H. Von Ziemssen. Vol. xii. 1877.

Diseases of the Brain and its Membranes. By Professors H. Nothnagel, E. Hitzig, and F. Obernier. London: Sampson Low, and Co. 1877.

The Student's Hand-Book of Forensic Medicine and Medical Police. By H. Aubrey Husband, M.B. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1877.

Mesmerism, Spiritualism, etc., Historically and Scientifically Considered. By Wm. B. Carpenter. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1877.

Aids to Chemistry. By C. E. Armand Semple, B.A., M.B. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1877.