

in its reorganised form, 3,634 benefit members entered their names, of whom apparently about 2,150 continued to subscribe. During the year just ended, 4,006 persons have been entered, and apparently about 2,460 are permanent members. The proportion of the receipts finally payable to the medical officers was £112 9s. 4d. in 1876. It would have amounted to £143 0s. 5d. if there had not been a necessity to use part of the subscriptions in completing the fitting up of the dispensary. For the past year the amount divisible is £242 8s. 10d. The payments by members in 1876 amounted to £312 16s.; consequently the proportion of this sum payable to the medical officers would have been 45.7 per cent., if no part of the subscriptions had been spent in fittings. This year the receipts from members have been £399 11s. 6d., and of this £242 8s. 10d., or about 60 per cent. is payable to the medical officers. With the increase of numbers has come greater economy, because the arrangements of the dispensary were made with a view to an extended list of members. The committee say they "cannot close their report without expressing their strong feeling of the value of the services given by the medical officers. In one sense those services may be properly spoken of as 'given'; but, if so, they are given in the best possible way, so as not to cramp or limit the entire freedom of the benefit members. It may be truly said that a gift judiciously made is often doubled in value to the receiver; and this expression may be appropriately applied to the care and attention of those officers whose services the committee desire to acknowledge."

A YEAR'S WORKING OF A PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.

AT the meeting of the Committee of the Royal Victoria Dispensary at Northampton, held on January 25th, Mr. Becke, the honorary secretary, reported that the net amount due to the three medical officers for their year's services was upwards of one thousand eight hundred pounds, after payment of drugs and all other expenses. The sum payable to the senior medical officer was nearly one thousand pounds. Mr. Becke believed this is the largest sum ever paid by any provident or charitable institution to a medical officer for a year's services.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

SHROPSHIRE AND MID-WALES BRANCH.

A QUARTERLY meeting will be held at the Salop Infirmary on Tuesday, February 12th, at 6.30 P.M.; J. RIDER, Esq., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary will feel obliged to those members who intend to read papers if they will signify the same to him before the day of meeting.

HENRY NELSON EDWARDS, *Honorary Secretary*.

Shrewsbury, January 30th, 1878.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE first intermediate meeting of this Branch will be held at the Town Hall, Oldham, on Tuesday, March 5th, at 3.30 P.M.

Dr. W. H. Broadbent (London) has kindly consented to read a paper on the Mechanism of Speech and Thought as illustrated by Pathology.

Members wishing to read papers or to exhibit specimens are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary as soon as possible.

Dinner will be provided at 6 o'clock.

D. J. LEECH, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.

96, Mosley Street, Manchester, January 31st, 1878.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE fourth ordinary meeting of the session 1877-8 was held in the Queen's College on January 10th, 1878: present, SAMPSON GAMGEE, Esq., President, in the Chair, and thirty-six members and visitors.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were elected members of the Branch: Dr. Chown and Dr. J. Wood, Birmingham; Mr. G. Holloway, Cannock; Mr. H. B. Walker, Kidderminster.

Communications.—1. Mr. Sampson Gamgee showed a modification of Sayre's Apparatus which had been constructed, on his suggestion, by Messrs. Salt and Son.

2. Dr. A. H. Carter read a paper on a New Method for the Quantitative Estimation of Urea in Urine.

3. Dr. Balthazar Foster read a paper on Sudden Death in Diabetes Mellitus.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PHYSICIANS' FEES.

SIR,—You have opened your columns to what, I fear, you may find a rather overwhelming flood of correspondence on the above subject. It does seem strange that some physicians should only now commence to complain of the injustice dealt to them by an undiscriminating public, to whose sense of honour it has been their pride and privilege to entrust the amount of honorarium expected by them for services rendered. While Fellows of the College of Physicians are bound down by the restrictions as to recovery of fees at present imposed on them, there is no help out of it, as far I can see, and the dishonest portion of the public will always be ready to take advantage of these circumstances whenever it is possible to do so.

I cannot but think that, if there were proper accord between those practising as pure consultant physicians and those gentlemen who practise in a less restricted manner, some mode of distinguishing the "black sheep" would be soon found out, at least as far as regards provincial towns of sufficient importance to give scope for consultation practice. "Consulting physicians" are occasionally apt to draw a broad line of distinction, socially and professionally, between themselves and others who may choose to practise in a different way, but who are as well born, as well educated, and as well qualified as themselves; men who will not brook professional dictation or social snubbing; the ranks of our profession are rapidly being filled with such men, totally different from the general practitioner of past days. If consulting physicians were more anxious to greet such men rather as their equals than as their inferiors, and to cultivate the goodwill of the profession in preference to the *vox populi*, I have little doubt that professional combination would be found sufficient protection against public dishonesty.

Beyond all doubt, the improvement in professional education during the last quarter of a century, and the generalisation of knowledge thereby, have considerably diminished the numerical amount of consultations, excepting in certain specialties; the greater, therefore, is the necessity for the consulting physician of the present day to be a man *sans reproche*, as regards professional conduct.

Diminution of consulting business has possibly forced some and tempted many to try to make up the deficiency by family practice, on terms which place them in direct competition with those gentlemen whom they should expect to call them in as consultants. Surely, such men cannot expect to have the pull both ways; they must choose between the profession and the public, or they will undoubtedly fall "between two stools". If a humble representative of the "working bees in the professional hive" might venture to advise the *Dii majores* yclept consulting physicians, I as such would advise them as follows. 1. By social and professional conduct, make yourself worthy of the eminent position which you would hope to retain, and which, by pursuing an undeviating course of professional integrity, you will assuredly retain through the good will of your professional brethren. 2. Fix such a price on your opinion, if founded on attested scientific and practical knowledge and enhanced by the corroborative opinion of your professional brethren, as will place you above suspicion of competing with those whose lot may be cast in rougher, though not less worthy, lines: gentlemen who, in their professional intercourse with you, will take care that no pecuniary disadvantage accrues to their esteemed friend the "real consultant physician".—I remain, sir, yours faithfully,

VERITAS.

January 26th, 1878.

P.S.—I trust that the term of "general practitioner" will soon be completely expunged. In its original meaning, the term is almost professionally obsolete, and I am fully convinced that, in a social point of view, with the public it is not a term likely to elevate professional status.

SIR,—I am sure each of your correspondents who writes on this subject has in view the honour and wellbeing of our profession. If, in this spirit, the subject can receive a complete reconsideration, with a view to improved arrangements, in accordance with present conditions and the altered value of money, I think the time for doing so has fully come. But the whole subject should be taken together. House-rent, wages, hire, the cost of living, etc., have all become much more expensive; the members of many occupations combine to keep up their charges; the medical profession is one of the few which does not do so, its members too often outbidding one another in offering their services to the public. And the public has come to think it granting a favour to the medical man to allow him to inspect disease

his plan is novel; but in this he is in error, as it has been practised in the metropolis and elsewhere, not only for this disease, but also for cholera. It is undoubtedly very useful at the commencement of what might otherwise have been an epidemic, and is worthy of being more extensively carried out, especially as Dr. Johnson says he had no difficulty in inducing the families to remove to the quarantine establishment. He does not say whether or not the fathers of the families, if any, accompanied them; because, in the cholera epidemic, considerable opposition was invariably made, except when the fathers were out of employment; and then at least equal difficulty was experienced, at any rate in some places, in inducing them to leave the comfortable quarters provided for all. This point is not mentioned by Dr. Johnson, and is one which must be taken into consideration if the plan should be largely practised. He does not state also how the "home" was kept together whilst the families were in quarantine.

INTERMITTENT WATER SERVICES.

We have often pointed out the dangers associated with intermittent water services, and we have specially noted the outbreaks of enteric fever, which have occurred in various towns, such as Lewes and Cambridge, where, with an intermittent system, water-closets have been supplied direct from the mains; and, with a view of obviating these dangers, we have strongly urged that all services should be constant, and that the supply to a water-closet should invariably be broken, as by the intervention of a supply cistern. We have also incidentally referred to the probable saving of water, which would be effected by the adoption of these measures; but actual facts on this point have hitherto not been forthcoming. We therefore note with gratification the results which have been obtained in Rugby in this respect. During the course of last year, Dr. George Wilson, in urging upon the Town Council of Warwick the necessity for dealing with their intermittent water supply, and with the branches to water-closets, which were so arranged as to admit of suction of sewer air into the mains, gave the result of his experience of the adoption of similar measures at Rugby. The number of water-closets which were there found to be directly connected with the mains amounted to about two hundred and fifty; and, since they had been disconnected, there had been a saving of waste in water equal to nearly ten gallons per head of the population per day. After some of the closets had already been disconnected, the water supply of the town was, by way of experiment, made constant for a term of three months, and a careful record was kept of the amount daily pumped. From this record it appeared that the average daily quantity supplied during that period amounted to thirty gallons per head. Subsequently all the remaining closets were disconnected, and it was ascertained that, as the result of a month's pumping in the constant service system, the quantity had been reduced to 21.3 gallons per day. In short, so much waste had been prevented that the water supply, which formerly was intermittent, has now been made constant; and that without any increase in the amount delivered.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

DREW, Clifford Luxmore, M.B., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Dunchurch District of the Rugby Union.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday, January 28th, 1878.

The Medical Profession.—In answer to Mr. Mills, Viscount SANDON said he was not at present able to inform his honourable friend whether the Government was prepared to bring in a Bill for providing an uniform test of admission to the medical profession in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Small-pox in the Isle of Man.—Sir J. LAWRENCE asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether information had reached him of an outbreak of small-pox in the Isle of Man; if it be true that the Vaccination Laws are not in force in the Isle of Man; and if any steps have been, or are about to be, taken to remedy this defect.—Mr. RITCHIE asked whether there was the slightest foundation for the rumour that the Governor of the Isle of Man and his family had left the island on account of the prevalent character of the disease.—Mr. CROSS was quite sure that anybody who knew the character of the Governor would not think for a moment that he was capable of deserting his post at a time of danger. It was utterly untrue that he had left the island. With regard to the outbreak of small-pox, it was quite true there had been a violent outbreak of that disease. The disease was spread owing to the Vaccination Law not being in force in the island. But a Bill

had now passed through the local legislature, and it would have received the Royal Assent at the present but for a small technicality which he hoped to correct. Papers connected with the question of vaccination in the Isle of Man would soon be laid before Parliament.

Tuesday, January 29th.

Small-pox in the Isle of Man.—In answer to a question from Mr. Adam, Mr. CROSS said I am happy to inform the House that the Isle of Man is now practically free from small-pox, the disease being limited to two or three convalescent cases.

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentleman passed his examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificate to practise, on Thursday, January 24th, 1878.

Clark, James Richard Andrew, 16, Cavendish Square, W.

The following gentleman also on the same day passed his primary professional examination.

Midwinter, Edward James Henry, London Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:—

BRECON INFIRMARY—Resident House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with apartments, attendance, fire, and lights. Applications to be made on or before the 11th instant.

CHORLTON UNION—Workhouse Medical Officer. Salary, £250 per annum, with firing, light, attendance, and furnished apartments. Applications to be made on or before the 5th instant.

CLIFDEN UNION—Medical Officer for the District comprising the Islands of Inishboffin and Shark. Salary, £90 per annum, exclusive of Registration and Vaccination Fees. Applications to the 13th instant.

DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON—Dental Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before the 13th instant.

GENERAL INFIRMARY, Northampton—Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before the 27th instant.

IPSWICH BOROUGH LUNATIC ASYLUM—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with furnished apartments, board, washing, and attendance.

KENT COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM—Assistant Medical Officer and Dispenser. Salary, £165 per annum, with furnished apartments, milk, vegetables, washing, and attendance. Applications to be made on or before the 6th instant.

LIVERPOOL ROYAL SOUTHERN HOSPITAL—Two Honorary Surgeons. Election in February. For particulars, apply to Honorary Treasurer.

LONDON HOSPITAL—Assistant-Physician. Applications to be made on or before the 4th instant.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL—Assistant Physician. Applications to be made on or before the 12th instant.

NORTHAMPTON GENERAL INFIRMARY—Physician. Applications to be made on or before the 20th instant.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND—Examiners for 1878 in the following subjects, at the salaries stated. Medicine, £100; Surgery, £100; Midwifery, £75; Materia Medica, £75; Medical Jurisprudence, £75. Applications to be addressed to the Secretary, at Dublin Castle, up to the 15th instant.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL—Surgeon and Assistant-Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before the 13th instant.

SLIGO UNION—Medical Officer of Carney Dispensary District No. 1. Salary, £120 per annum as Medical Officer, and £20 yearly as Sanitary Officer, with the usual Registration and Vaccination Fees. Applications to the 4th instant.

TOBERCERRY UNION—Medical Officer of Coolaney Dispensary District. Salary, £120 yearly, with Registration and Vaccination Fees. Applications to the 11th instant.

WEST HERTS INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon and Dispenser, who shall also be Assistant-Secretary. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, furnished rooms, fire, lights, and attendance. Applications to be made on or before the 7th inst.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

EVANS, C. W., M.R.C.S., appointed a Clinical Assistant at the Royal South London Ophthalmic Hospital.

*FLETCHER, George, M.D., appointed Medical Officer to the Albert Memorial College, Framlingham, Suffolk.

HOBSON, Lewis John, M.B., appointed Senior House-Surgeon to the Newcastle-on-Tyne Infirmary.

*HUMPHREYS, Henry, M.D., appointed Senior Physician to the Hospital for Sick Children, Pendlebury.

*NEILL, Channing, M.D., appointed Junior Physician to the Hospital for Sick Children, Pendlebury, *vice* *A. Humphreys, M.D., promoted.

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.

MARRIAGE.

JONES—BLACKBURN.—On January 3rd, at Chicago, U.S.A., by the father of the bride, assisted by the Rev. W. C. Young, *Percy Owen Jones, M.R.C.S.E., to Alice, eldest daughter of the Rev. W. M. Blackburn, D.D.

WESTMORLAND—YOUNG.—On January 23rd, at the Cathedral, Manchester, by the Rev. Minor Canon Clementi Smith, M.A., assisted by the Rev. Thomas Charles Westmorland, M.A., Vicar of Shipton Thorpe, *Joseph Westmorland, Surgeon, Cheetham, Manchester, to Mary, eldest daughter of the late John Hindle Young, of Crumpsall Old Hall, Manchester.

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.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.—London, 3 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.—King's College, 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.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Peter's, 2 P.M.

THURSDAY.... St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Charing Cross, 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.—London, 3 P.M.

FRIDAY Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Royal South London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Guy's, 1.30 P.M.

SATURDAY.... St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1 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.—London, 2.15 P.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Lettsomian Lecture by Francis Mason, F.R.C.S.; subject, "The Surgery of the Face".

TUESDAY.—Pathological Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Yeo: Heart and Aorta—Sequel to Case of Rupture of Aortic Valve. Mr. T. Bryant: 1. Prostatic Tumours removed in Lithotomy; 2. Impacted Fracture of the Shaft of the Femur. Mr. Nunn: Sequel of a Case of Recurrent Sarcoma. Mr. Morgan: Case of Congenital Obstruction to the Common Bile-duct. Mr. Lennox Browne: 1. Cancer of the Tongue involving the Tonsil (living case); 2. Cancer of the Tonsil; 3. Encephaloid Cancer of the Larynx. Mr. K. Thornton (for Mr. Taylor): Tumours of both Ovaries. Mr. K. Thornton: Cysts from the Peritoneum. Mr. Wood: Cystic Disease of the Thyroid. Dr. Samuel West: Thrombosis of the Vena Cava and Portal Vein. Dr. Legg: 1. Aneurysm of the Right Auricle; 2. Melanotic Liver; and other specimens.

WEDNESDAY.—Royal Microscopical Society, 8 P.M. Anniversary Meeting. President's Address, etc.—Obstetrical Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. MacCallum, "Report of the University Lying-in Hospital, Montreal"; Dr. Greene, "Case of Puerperal Convulsions"; and other communications.

THURSDAY.—Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. Mr. Hornsey Casson, "Gunshot Injury of Elbow-joint"; Dr. Fitzpatrick, "On the Defective Drainage of West End Houses, and Cases of Zymotic Disease arising therefrom".

FRIDAY.—Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. The President, "Specimens of Tendon Ligatures"; Mr. Nunn, "Two Cases of Cancer"; Mr. Hutchinson, "Retinitis Hæmorrhagica: its connection with Gout and probable dependance upon Thrombosis of the Vein"; Mr. Balmanno Squire, "Severe Psoriasis treated by daily Immersions"; and a "Case of Psoriasis treated by Chrysophanic Acid" (living specimens).

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CORRESPONDENTS, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

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*.

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.

ANIMAL VACCINE.

A MEMBER.—The establishment in Brussels is the Institut Vaccinal de l'Etat, the director of which is M. Evariste Warlomont. Our correspondent will find information on the subject in a letter from Dr. Warlomont, published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* for January 27th, 1877.

FILTERS.

SIR,—Mr. J. Burrows wishes to know of a filter easily kept clean and in order. In August 1871 I bought one of Spencer's magnetic iron filters. It has been in daily use from the day it was bought to the present time. It has not been cleaned, neither does it appear to require cleaning. The water that comes from it is very clear, very agreeable, and is largely consumed by my family and myself. The theory of its dirt-consuming power may be read in the prospectus issued by Mr. Spencer, the inventor of the filter, who resides at 32, Euston Square, where there is, or was, a depot of them. I enclose my card.—Very faithfully yours,
January 1878. E. H. R.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements for insertion in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, should be forwarded direct to the Publishing Office, 36, Great Queen Street, W.C., addressed to Mr. FOWKE, not later than *Thursday*, Twelve o'clock.

ADVERTISERS are requested to take notice that the regulations of the Post Office do not allow letters to be addressed to initials and directed to any Post Office in the United Kingdom, but letters may be addressed to initials to the *JOURNAL* Office or any stated address other than a Post Office.

SORE NIPPLES.

DURING the last month or so of pregnancy, wash the nipples with equal parts of brandy and water morning and evening; and, if there be any cracks, apply a lotion of sulphurous acid, about 1 to 8, on lint. Proved.

A. B. MUNRO, M.D., C.M.

157, Otley Road, Bradford, Yorkshire, January 26th, 1878.

SIR,—If E. R. S.'s patient will bathe her nipples twice or thrice daily from this time till her confinement with a lotion of tincture of arnica and water (1 to 7), and take care that there be no pressure from corsets or dress, she will, I believe, be free from sore nipples afterwards. During lactation, a lotion of brandy and water (1 to 8) may be applied to the nipples between the infant's feeding hours, if they are inclined to be tender, taking care to bathe them with warm water immediately before the child is put to the breast.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
C. S. WILLS.

SIR,—I notice that one of your correspondents has some difficulty with the treatment of the nipples. As I had the same experience, I was led to examine the whole subject, and the results of my investigation are published in the *Obstetrical Journal* for the present month. If E. R. S. have not access to that journal, I shall be glad to send him a reprint of my paper should he communicate his address to me.—I am, yours very truly,
SAMUEL SLOAN.

4, Newton Terrace, Glasgow, January 29th, 1878.

VILLOUS DISEASE OF THE BLADDER.

SIR,—In the *JOURNAL* of January 19th, there is a letter from "L.R.C.P. Lond.", in which he states that my case of villous disease of the bladder is open to doubt, and questions the propriety of the treatment. These are, however, matters of opinion. It was not to discuss the diagnosis or treatment that I reported the case, but to show how slight an injury to the urethra could give rise to alarming symptoms. I wish to inform L.R.C.P. that we did not, at our consultation, come to any decided diagnosis; but we agreed that the hæmorrhage came from one of two sources—i.e., the prostate gland, or from a villous growth involving the neck of the bladder. In trying in a catheter, we hoped to check the bleeding, if coming from the former; whilst it would prevent the severe and painful straining which caused so much distress. This it did, to the great relief of the patient. L.R.C.P. could not have read the case, or he would have seen that the patient injured his own urethra through getting out of bed some hours after my visit. The patient is now tolerably comfortable, but occasionally passes a little blood with his urine. He has also pain at the neck of the bladder, with frequent micturition; but there has been no retention.—I am, sir, yours, etc.,
WM. STAMFORD, L.R.C.P. Lond.

SIR,—In Mr. Stamford's communication on a "case of villous disease of the bladder" in the *JOURNAL* of January 5th, he makes this statement: "The feature of interest, however, in the case is the occurrence of the rigor following a misplacement of the catheter, which he had worn without hindrance for four days. To what may that rigor be referred? That it was not the precursor of any febrile symptoms, puts the view, I think, of its being due to septic absorption from the seat of disease out of the question". But are not a temperature of 105 deg. and a skin which was "very dry", with a defervescence accompanied by a skin "acting profusely", febrile symptoms? And are not the words I have italicised in the above quotation somewhat inconsistent with Mr. Stamford's subsequent expression, "the remarkable severity of the transient pyrexial state". In the *JOURNAL* of January 26th, 1877, he will find a detailed account of what, I think, was an undoubted case of short-lived septiciæmia after the prolonged use of an urethral bougie, which lasted thirty-nine hours, counting from the rigor, until the normal temperature was restored. I am disposed to think his case was similar both in cause and nature to my own, but more transient, as we may conclude that it lasted about ten or twelve hours. There is a great similarity between the two cases, but there is one striking difference: in his case there was profuse perspiration, and in mine there was absolutely none, but it terminated with continuous vomiting and a herpetic eruption; the cases thus showing a remarkable contrast in the route (apparently) taken by the poison for its elimination.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
Ennisconry, January 26th, 1878. THOMAS DRAPES, M.B.

SURGEON-MAJOR FERGUSSON (Camp Hagar).—We have made further inquiry on the subject of our correspondent's letter, and we are informed by Mr. Pillscher that the calculation of the magnifying powers of the objectives of his international microscope was made independently in every case by an accomplished expert. Five hundred of them are, we believe, in use in the London medical schools and in the medical colleges of Bombay and Calcutta; and these instruments, of which we have had occasion to speak favourably in the first instance, have not in any case been the subject of any complaint. We have reason to believe that the powers are some fractions under rather than over the figures stated, and we believe that, if our correspondent again tests his objectives, he will find the calculations to be correct.

TREATMENT OF SCURVY BY THE BINOXALATE OF POTASSIUM.

SIR,—Permit me to make a few remarks with reference to your able arguments on the above subject in last week's number of the *JOURNAL*. It is stated, in the information furnished to me by Mr. J. W. Taylor, that out of fourteen men suffering from scurvy in its most severe form, and treated solely by the binoxalate of potassium, only one died, and he after exposure for seventy hours in an open boat. I venture to submit that this great percentage of cures warrants a more extended trial of the remedy, whether it be an old one or not. If it could be used as a substitute for lime-juice it would be invaluable to Arctic sleigh parties, where weight and space are a great consideration—two ounces and a half of binoxalate of potassium being about equal, as an antiscorbutic, to one gallon of lime-juice; and if small doses be given, is neither poisonous nor injurious.—Your obedient servant,
Anerley, January 28th, 1878. W. H. TAYLER, M.D.

HOW TO EMBALM A BODY.

SIR,—Would any of your readers answer this question, or advise as to the best source of information? and oblige,
ARMENIA.