

PARLIAMENTARY BILLS COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Parliamentary Bills Committee held on Tuesday, the 12th instant, at the offices of the Association, present, Mr. Ernest Hart (Chairman), Mr. Sibley, Mr. Holder (Hull), Dr. Grigg, Dr. Henry, Mr. Alford, and Mr. Nelson Hardy,

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN reported progress on the subject of the inquiry into the amendment of the coroner's court, and mentioned that Sir Robert Christison, Dr. A. S. Taylor, and others, had forwarded documents for the information of the Committee.

It was ordered that the memoranda and correspondence relating to the subject be reprinted for circulation among the Committee and others interested in the subject.

Dental Practitioners' Bill.—The Dental Practitioners' Bill was considered. After much discussion, it was moved by Dr. GRIGG and seconded by Mr. NELSON HARDY:

"That this Committee is of opinion that the title of surgeon should not be conferred by law on any others than Members and Fellows of the College of Surgeons.

"That the clauses of the Dental Registration Bill which provide that registered surgeons should not be entitled to call themselves dental surgeons, and that licentiates in dentistry in the College shall be so entitled, are opposed to the best interests of the public and the profession.

"That the Committee recommend that this Bill be so modified that the title of dental surgeon in future and in respect to practitioners not now on the *Register* shall be restricted to Members and Fellows of the College of Surgeons, and that persons holding the licence of any college in dentistry shall be registered only as dentists, and not entitled to use the appellation of surgeon."

Mr. SIBLEY moved an amendment in favour of confining the title of dentist or dental surgeon in future to those who had obtained the licence in dentistry of the College of Surgeons.

The amendment was not seconded.

Mr. HART moved that Dr. Grigg's resolution be amended by adding, after the words "Members and Fellows of the College of Surgeons", in the second paragraph, "also the licentiates in dentistry".

The amendment was carried, and being then put as a substantive motion, was also carried, with one dissentient. The effect of it is to recommend that all persons holding a licence in dentistry should be entitled to be registered as dentists, and that surgeons taking licences in dentistry should be registered as dental surgeons, but that no persons who are not surgeons shall be entitled to call themselves so.

The Medical Acts Amendment Bill.—The CHAIRMAN said that on the table and in the possession of the Committee were two Bills—one by Dr. Lush and the other by Mr. Errington—relating to the amendment of the Medical Act; but he had always advised the Committee, since the institution of the Medical Reform Committee, to leave the consideration of such Bills for the amendment of the Medical Act to that Committee, and he now repeated that advice.

Mr. HOLDER and Mr. SIBLEY, however, expressed their objection to that course.

Mr. HARDY pointed out that Dr. Lush's Bill would, if it had effect, carry out the precise instructions conveyed in the resolution at the General Meeting at Sheffield; and, in consequence of the correspondence which had passed between Dr. Waters of Chester and Mr. Carpenter, the Secretary of the Medical Alliance Association, which had promoted this Bill, he felt bound to urge that the Committee ought to take cognisance of Dr. Lush's Bill, which he believed to be a good one, and in accordance with the resolution passed at Manchester, and he believed with the general feeling of the Association.

The CHAIRMAN said, having stated his views, he could not pretend to overrule what appeared to be the unanimous wish of the Committee.

Mr. SIBLEY stated that the insufficiency of the existing law, in failing to enable the public to distinguish between quacks and qualified practitioners, and the consequent injury, both to the public and the profession, had been brought prominently under his notice, in consequence of a recent case at a metropolitan police-court, in which the magistrate had acquainted him with the imperfectness of the law with regard to his inability to afford that protection to the public, which the preamble of the Medical Act showed that it was designed to afford. In this case a man with a bogus diploma, carrying on very objectionable proceedings, had escaped all punishment, and was pursuing his practices with impunity.

Mr. HARDY stated that the Home Secretary had, last year, expressed a strong opinion that such a state of law should not be allowed to con-

tinue. He stated this as a distinct grievance, quite apart from any other.

Mr. HOLDER (Hull) concurred, and concluded his observations by moving that this Committee approves of the Bill introduced by Dr. Lush, under the title of the Medical Acts Amendment Bill, and recommends it to the branches, for their approval and support, and that copies of the Bill be accordingly forwarded to the secretaries and presidents of the branches.

This motion was adopted; and the proceedings terminated.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

AN ordinary meeting of this Branch will be held at the house of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, on Wednesday, February 27th, at 8 P.M.; when Mr. T. HOLMES, F.R.C.S., will read a paper on Provident Dispensaries, to be followed by a discussion.

ALEXANDER HENRY, M.D. } *Honorary Secretaries.*
W. CHAPMAN GRIGG, M.D. }

London, February 7th, 1878.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.

THE second ordinary meeting of the Session will be held at the London and North Western Hotel, Stafford, on Thursday, February 28th, at 4.30 o'clock P.M. The Chair will be taken by Dr. Arlidge.

Members wishing to read papers or show specimens are earnestly requested to communicate at once with either of the Secretaries.

VINCENT JACKSON, } *Honorary Secretaries.*
J. G. U. WEST, }

Wolverhampton, February 12th, 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.

THAMES VALLEY BRANCH.

THE next meeting of the above Branch will take place at the Griffin Hotel, Kingston, on March 14th, at 5 o'clock.

Members who may be willing to read papers are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary as soon as possible.

There will be a dinner after the meeting (7 o'clock) at the above hotel. Charge, 7s. 6d. each, exclusive of wine.

F. P. ATKINSON, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

Kingston-on-Thames, February 12th, 1878.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH:
SPECIAL MEETING.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the Branch was held in the Queen's College, Birmingham, on January 31st, called, in obedience to a requisition, "to consider the position of the profession in reference to the establishment of provident dispensaries in Birmingham". Present, Mr. SAMPSON GAMGEE, President, in the Chair, and about one hundred members and visitors.

The following resolutions were carried unanimously.

"1. That the rules of the Birmingham Provident Dispensary, and the letter from the honorary secretaries of the proposed institution (January 3rd, 1878), be referred to a Special Committee of this Branch of the British Medical Association; and that it be an instruction to such Special Committee to take such steps as they may deem necessary in the twofold interest of the public and of the profession, and to report.

"2. That the Special Committee on Provident Dispensaries consist of the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number: Mr.

Archer, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Bartleet, Dr. Bassett, Dr. B. W. Foster, Mr. Gamgee, Mr. W. C. Garman, Mr. J. Garner, Dr. Hickinbotham, Dr. Johnston, Mr. Maberly, Dr. Monckton, Mr. Newnham, Mr. Oakes, Mr. O. Pemberton, Dr. Russell, Mr. L. Owen, Dr. Savage, Dr. Thompson (Leamington), Dr. T. Underhill, Dr. Vinrace, Dr. Wade, Mr. W. Williams, and Dr. Welch.

"3. That the best thanks of this meeting be and are hereby tendered to the Council of the Midland Medical Society for their valued offer of full and hearty co-operation on behalf of the members of that Society; that such offer is cordially reciprocated; and that it be a recommendation to that Society to consider the propriety of appointing a Committee to act with the Special Committee appointed at this meeting in the matter of provident dispensaries.

"4. That the sum of £10 be placed at the disposal of the Special Committee.

"5. That this special general meeting be adjourned to the call of the Chairman."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

SIR,—I have been waiting with some interest for the appearance in the official columns of the JOURNAL of the report of the proceedings of the Committee of Council of the meeting of January 9th last; for they included subjects of great importance to all the members of the Association, to some of which it has seemed to me desirable that general attention should be directed. To my surprise and disappointment, I have looked in vain for the report of the proceedings until this time. They appear in the last JOURNAL (February 9th), exactly one month after date. I have not only to complain of this delay, but I have to add the still more serious complaint that the report is so abbreviated, and is so marred by large omissions, that it gives no adequate idea of the actual proceedings; and this makes it extremely difficult for me to bring under the notice of our associates some of the questions arising out of those proceedings, which may with great advantage, I think, be submitted to immediate discussion.

I. I take first of all Dr. Wilson's Fox's letter on the admission of ladies to the meetings of the Association, and the answer given. To this an amendment was moved, seconded, and discussed, of which no notice whatever appears in what purports to be the official report of the proceedings published in the JOURNAL. Thus there is omitted the due intimation to members that there were those on the Council who did not think the answer given to Dr. Fox adequate to the occasion. The delay in the publication and the omission in report are here, I think, both open to censure. In consequence of the delay, Dr. Wilson Fox's letter of resignation actually appeared in all the medical papers (including our own) before the publication of the resolution to which it was an answer; and, in consequence of the omission, the inadequacy of the reply pointed out in Professor Lister's very pertinent letter appears to be unfairly exaggerated.

I see that our editor appends a note of explanation to Professor Lister's letter, which *post factum* supplies the gap. Is this an official authoritative statement, or the mere private opinion of the editor?

II. The next important item in the report of the proceedings is a long and formal resolution setting forth and approving the terms of the lease of premises in the Strand at a yearly rental of £320, followed by another announcing in detail the insurance of the above premises, together with the amount of a year's rent: a considerable display of minute business care. Could any one have supposed from this the actual facts, which are, that the Committee of Council also decided at this meeting, without consulting or even informing the members, to take upon the Association the business of printers; to expend £1,000 of the funds of the Association in alterations and structural repairs of these premises; besides having in contemplation the expenditure of about another £1,000 in the purchase of printers' material and machines, shop and office fittings and furniture? So important and serious a step and so large an outlay might with advantage, I think, have been submitted for the opinion of the members at large—if necessary, at a special general meeting—before it was adopted and put in force. In any case, I am unable to understand the propriety of arranging the report of its proceedings published in the JOURNAL in such a manner as to set forth in great apparent business detail, only the ordinary fact that a house is to be rented (as at present) and to omit altogether the much more important fact that the Association is about to take up the trade of printing, and especially that it is going

to expend £2,000 of its moneys in house-repairs, fittings, and type. Some satisfactory explanation of the reason of this omission is, I think, fairly due to the members of the Association.

I am anxious that the whole matter should be fully put before and considered by the members, before it is too late for them to express their views for the guidance of the Committee; because, as a Secretary of the Metropolitan Counties Branch recently entering upon office, I learn now that, prior to my accession to office, the Council of the Branch had under consideration a proposal for providing a reception-room for medical visitors to London.

Moreover, at a meeting of the Council of the Branch held three weeks ago, a resolution was unanimously carried, suggesting to the Committee of Council to provide a central office for the use of members of the Association visiting London; and a strong feeling was expressed by some of the most eminent members of the Council, that the central office should be of a kind and in a position suitable to a great professional Association, and not a mere appendage to a printing and publishing office.

I am personally cognisant of an excellent printing and publishing office close to that now selected, and in the same thoroughfare, at a rental, not of £320 *per annum*, but of only £200 a year, and not requiring one shilling of outlay for repairs, etc., such as those on which it is now proposed to expend £1,000 of our money, with immediate possession, entailing no loss of rent during structural alterations and repairs, which, in the present premises, will be a serious item. I am acquainted also with excellent premises in Spring Gardens, Charing Cross, which could be secured at a moderate rent, and which are in good order, which would afford an excellent house and central office for the Association and for the meetings of its Committee of Council, with reading and meeting rooms for its members worthy of a scientific body of gentlemen, who may, I think, reasonably object, as some of our members have already objected to me, to being relegated, as the result of so great an outlay as that now proposed, to a back room over a printing-office.

What I wish especially to call attention to is that, by the omission of the published report of proceedings, essentially important facts, to the welfare of the Association at large, are held back from the knowledge of the members, from whom most valuable expression of opinions might be expected on so vitally important a subject as this.

III. We read next, in the published proceedings, a bare statement that—"The minutes of the Habitual Drunkards Committee were read, and an amendment was moved. Resolved: That in the event", etc.

Irrespective of the defective wording of this minute (which leaves it doubtful whether the amendment moved was or was not the resolution carried), I must here again ask, Why are the minutes so read omitted from the report? Is not this a matter of public interest to all the members? Have not all the members of the Association a right to know at the time what the Committee proposes? Will not, whatever is done by it, be done in the name and with the influence of the Association at large? Why, then, is the knowledge of these views withheld in the meantime from the members?

IV. Finally, I am greatly struck with the fact that all mention whatever is omitted from the report of the proceedings of a *most important* series of regulations adopted for the general conduct of the annual meetings of the members, and dealing with the rights of members at these meetings. One of them especially is of a character which, I fear, will be found to abrogate a primary and important privilege of members, heretofore in force, and to *interfere with the power which they have hitherto possessed of moving resolutions at the annual meetings*. I earnestly trust that these regulations will not be withheld from discussion, and I suggest that they be at once restored to what purports to be the report to the members of the proceedings of the meeting.

I claim permission to ask, through the medium of the JOURNAL, of my fellow-Secretaries of Branches and the members of the Association generally, whether they approve of the way in which the proceedings of the Committee of Council are published, or whether they share generally the views which I have expressed.

I claim permission also to ask, in the same manner, the President of Council to state, for the information of my fellow-members in the Association, (1) whence the great delay in the publication of these most important proceedings; (2) by whose authority the omissions were ordered; (3) whether he will not at once direct that the Secretary publish in the official column of the JOURNAL a fuller and more complete report of these proceedings, the most important parts of which are omitted in what has been published last week.

Apologising for occupying so much space,

I am, sir, yours truly, W. C. GRIGG, M.D.,
Honorary Secretary Metropolitan Counties Branch.
6, Curzon Street, Mayfair, February 9th, 1878.

gaged in practice, and enjoyed alike the confidence of the public and of his professional brethren. He had a wide circle of attached friends both within and without the profession; for his sterling rectitude of character, coupled with his kindness and urbanity of manner, won the respect and esteem of all who knew him. Though a man of deep earnest religious feeling, he was singularly free from cant or sectarianism; and preferred that his religion should be an operative principle, influencing and controlling his words, acts, and conduct, rather than a mere matter of talk and ostentation. He has often said to the writer of this sketch that "he would not give a fig for a man's religious principle, if it did not make him strive to be a better doctor, lawyer, or soldier, as the case might be".

As might be expected in a man actuated by such principles, Churchill's professional conduct and bearing, especially towards his brother practitioners, were consonant with the strictest rules of medical ethics. In this sense, he was indeed a man:

"Totus, teres, atque rotundus."

His fame will be perpetuated by his writings, and his remembrance will be fondly cherished in the hearts of those who knew him.

For many years, he had a very extensive midwifery practice, which he gave up some time previously to his retirement from Dublin. He submitted a long and detailed account of this series of cases to the Obstetrical Society, which was subsequently published in the *Dublin Medical Journal* for June 1872. This report extends over thirty-nine years, and exhibits the results of 2,547 cases of labour, exclusive of abortion and premature cases. As a record of the results of practice among the better classes of society in a great city, this report is most valuable.

Churchill's whole career furnishes a bright and encouraging example of success attained solely by industry, application, and honourable conduct. The influence such a man must exert in upholding the tone and standard of professional feeling amongst his contemporaries can hardly be overestimated.

For some years back, Dr. Churchill suffered from chronic rheumatic arthritis of the hip-joints; and also was known to have a weak heart, so that the slightest fatigue brought on faintness or was followed by prostration. The immediate cause of his death, however, seems to have been an acute attack of bronchopneumonia, under which the vital powers rapidly broken down. He died in the last month of his seventieth year.

In fine, to quote from the Address of the Dublin Obstetrical Society, his was a "lengthened career not less distinguished for the conscientious discharge of every professional obligation than for the successful cultivation of all the branches of obstetric science and for the promotion of every useful and philanthropic work that came within his reach."

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday, February 11th, 1878.

The Medical Students and the War.—Dr. WARD defended the course adopted by the deputation of medical students of London to the Home Secretary, which had been warmly assailed by Mr. Hubbard. That right honourable gentleman had said that the course they had pursued was most deplorable, and that they were evidently looking forward to an opportunity of exercising their profession. In his opinion, that was a most unfair charge to bring against a number of young men who, in their collective capacity, had thought it right in this grave crisis to express their confidence in Her Majesty's Government.—Mr. HUBBARD explained that the only fault he had found with the deputation of medical students was, that they had passed a resolution, amid vociferous cheers, in favour of war with Russia. He approved their passing a vote of confidence in Her Majesty's Government, inasmuch as he had himself voted in their favour.

Tuesday, February 12th.

Sale of Food and Drugs.—Mr. ANDERSON asked the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention had been called to a recent decision of the High Court of Justiciary, Scotland, concerning the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, by which five judges had decided that no offence could be proved on evidence taken from any article specially bought for analysis, the buyer in such case not having been prejudiced in the purpose for which he bought it; and, further, that two of the judges—Lords Moncreiff and Young—expressed the opinion that the sixth section did not prevent tampering with an article to the deterioration of its quality, if without the addition of extraneous matter; and whether he purposed taking any steps to prevent the Act in question becoming a dead letter.—Mr. SCLATER-BOTH: My attention has been called to the decision of the High Court of Justiciary in

Scotland to which the honourable gentleman refers, and I regret that I have not had an opportunity of conferring with the Lord-Advocate on the subject. It seems that, previous to the Scottish case alluded to, no question had been raised in England as to the validity of a prosecution under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act by a person who purchases only with a view to analysis, and in the cases which have occurred since the magistrates have decided against the objection when raised. I concur in that view, which, be it observed, is also the view of some of the Scottish judges; and I cannot believe that the High Court of Justice, if appealed to, will come to any other decision. I am, therefore, not prepared, as at present advised, to introduce an amending Bill, though, if my anticipations were disappointed, such a step might be necessary.

MEDICAL NEWS.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

- DOWNPATRICK UNION**—Medical Officer of Strangford Dispensary District. Salary, £100 a year as Medical Officer, and £15 as Sanitary Officer, with the usual Registration and Vaccination Fees. Election to take place on the 21st instant.
- GENERAL INFIRMARY, Hertford**—Medical Resident and Secretary. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be made on or before March 6th.
- GENERAL INFIRMARY, Northampton**—Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before the 27th instant.
- GORT UNION**—Medical Officer of Ardahan Dispensary District. Salary, £140 a year as Medical Officer, and £10 as Sanitary Officer, with Registration and Vaccination Fees. Election on March 14th.
- IPSWICH BOROUGH LUNATIC ASYLUM**—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with furnished apartments, board, washing, and attendance.
- KILLALA UNION**—Medical Officer of Killala Dispensary District. Salary, £60 yearly, and £20 as Sanitary Officer. Applications to the 2nd prox.
- LINCOLN LUNATIC HOSPITAL**—Resident Medical Superintendent. Salary, £150 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 16th instant.
- LIVERPOOL ROYAL SOUTHERN HOSPITAL**—Two Honorary Surgeons. Election in February. For particulars, apply to Honorary Treasurer.
- NARBETH UNION**—Medical Officer for No. 4 District. Salary, £35 per annum, and fees, with £10 as Medical Officer of Health.
- NORTHAMPTON GENERAL INFIRMARY**—Physician. Applications to be made on or before the 20th instant.
- WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL**—Aural Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before the 26th instant.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

TOMKINS, Henry, M.D., appointed Senior House-Surgeon to the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

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.

BIRTHS.

- ***GRIFFITH**.—On February 9th, at Portmadoc, North Wales, the wife of Samuel Griffith, M.D., of a daughter.
- THOMSON**.—On February 6th, at Algiers, the wife of W. Thomson, M.D., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

- APPLEYARD**—DEACON.—On the 9th instant, at Christ Church, Banbury, John Appleyard, F.R.C.S., M.B., to Matilda, daughter of the late Grosvenor Deacon.—No cards.
- HENNING**—**STRICKLAND**.—On the 12th instant, at St. James, Norland (W), *Wm. Douglas Henning, M.R.C.S., of Notting Hill Terrace, Senior Assistant Surgeon to the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital, to Harriet Isabella, daughter of Major Strickland, and granddaughter and adopted child of Mrs. Major Dickson, of Notting Hill.
- JONES**—**ROBERTS**.—On February 2nd, by License, at Saint Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, by the Rev. Ed. Lloyd Edwards, M.A., John Jones, Esq., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A., to Sarah, only daughter of John Roberts, Esq., of Bryn End, Ruabon.

DEATH.

- TIBBITS**.—On the 10th instant, at 11, Eldon Place, Bradford, Yorkshire, Charlotte Banks, the wife of Edward T. Tibbits, M.D. Lond., in her 39th year.

DONATION.—The Misses Brooke have given £100 to the Rathdown Hospital, Monkstown.

DR. CORNELIUS B. FOX, Medical Officer of Health of East, Central, and South Essex, has been elected a Fellow of the Chemical Society.

A LIFE-SIZED portrait of the late Dr. Parkes, F.R.S., intended for the Refectory at Netley, has just been completed by Messrs. Barraud and Jerrard, and is on view up to the 16th instant, at 96, Gloucester Place, Portman Square.

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. Mr. Balmanno Squire, "Two Cases of Flat Vascular Nævus successfully treated by repeated Linear Scarifications"; Mr. William Adams will exhibit Improved Instruments for the Treatment of Broken Nose; and Mr. Spencer Watson Improved Instruments for the Treatment of Distortion of the Nose; Mr. Wordsworth, "On the Treatment of Squinting without Operation".
TUESDAY.	Pathological Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Knowsley Thornton (for Mr. Taylor of Guildford): Tumours of both Ovaries. Mr. Thornton: Cysts from the Peritoneum. Mr. John Wood: Cystic Disease of the Thyroid. Dr. Peacock: Malformation of the Heart. Dr. Samuel West: Thrombosis of the Vena Cava, with Secondary Thrombosis of the Portal Vein. Dr. Wickham Legg: 1. Aneurysm of the Right Auricle; 2. Melanotic Liver. Dr. Goodhart: 1. Dilatation of the Aorta from old Spinal Disease; 2. A Case of general Arterial Disease. Mr. Charles Coles: Worms in the Heart, Liver, and Larynx of a Dog. Mr. B. Squire: Drawings—1. A rare form of Psoriasis; 2. A Case of Nævus complicated with Molluscum. Mr. Sangster: Case of Hypertrophied Lupus. Dr. Ord: 1. Renal Calculus containing Indigo; 2. Renal Calculus of mixed Carbonate and Phosphate; 3. Spontaneous Disintegration of Calculi; and other specimens.
THURSDAY.	Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. G. de G. Griffith, "A Case of Hydramnios"; 8.30 P.M., Mr. Knowsley Thornton, "On Unsuccessful Ovariectomy: with Cases".
FRIDAY.	Quekett Microscopical Club (University College, Gower Street), 8 P.M. Ordinary Meeting.

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.

THE letters of Mr. W. J. Marsh, Dr. Ogle, Dr. Donkin, Dr. Campbell, and many others, are unavoidably postponed for want of space.

AN APPEAL.

SIR,—On behalf of the family of a distressed medical man, I have to thank those who have so kindly responded to my appeal. Lay subscriptions I have acknowledged elsewhere. At the same time, I shall feel greatly obliged for further assistance, which is needed and deserved.—Yours faithfully,
Easingwold College, near York, Feb. 5th, 1878.

JOHN J. EBERLE.

G. Shann, M.D.	..	..	..	..	£2	2	0
C. Coates, M.D.	..	..	..	..	..	2	0
A. Clark, M.D.	..	..	..	..	..	2	0
T. C. Allbutt, M.D.	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
G. T. B. Watters, M.B.	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
T. W.	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
T. M. Beaumont, M.D.	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
William Stewart, M.D.	..	..	..	..	..	0	10
J. Baker, M.D.	..	..	..	..	..	0	10

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*.

THE POPULATION QUESTION.

SIR,—With reference to Mr. Allbutt's pertinent remarks in your impression of February 2nd, 1878, allow me to say his penultimate sentence would seem to do what it is impossible he can have intended—viz., to qualify, repudiate, or negative all he has urged with regard to the principles under discussion. To urge, "Surely there is sufficient poverty and evil in the world without bringing in more to share it than can be provided for," implies either begging the question at issue—a direct imputation that the world is at present very badly managed—or that all persons should take it upon themselves to say how much poverty and evil will exist in any part of the world in the future, or limit the productiveness of any race because inadequate means of feeding, clothing, or employing them may be adopted in that part of time sometimes called unborn eternity. As a rule, the result usually has been, limit the increase of population without adequate cause, and the reaction causes deterioration or annihilation.—Yours, etc.,
Aberdeen, February 4th, 1878.

J. A. P. BAIN.

BIRMINGHAM PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.

SIR,—My attention has been directed to some remarks in your last issue on the proposed dispensaries in Birmingham, and on my conduct as one of the honorary secretaries of these institutions. Were it not that the remarks to which I refer are utterly without foundation in fact, I should not venture to ask you to give me space to contradict them, for of course the dispensary scheme and its promoters are open to fair criticism. You allege that "the lay committee on provident dispensaries went on with their work without taking counsel with the medical profession, and they published about a fortnight ago their scheme of rules for the Birmingham dispensaries". Neither of these statements has the merit of being true. Our committee did not consult the medical societies for several reasons—among others, because those societies do not include all the medical practitioners likely to be affected by our scheme, and they do include many specialists and rural surgeons not directly concerned in it. But it ought not to be forgotten that the town's meeting called by the mayor to establish provident dispensaries was open to the medical profession as to any other class of the community; and yet, with the exception of a few consulting surgeons who allowed their names to go on the committee, the medical men were not present to show any interest in the movement. They stood entirely aloof till they thought our committee was formulating a scheme that would touch their professional interests, though the committee had no desire to do anything hurtful to the status of a class of men who are deservedly respected, and who are everywhere overworked and badly remunerated for what they do. The committee has from the first recognised the necessity of sooner or later consulting the profession—at any rate, that portion of it directly affected by their scheme—but they have been at a loss to know how this might best be done. With regard to the publication of our scheme, I can only say that it has not been published by us. Up to the present time, a complete scheme does not even exist. The draft of one was issued to the medical charities, and to the officers of large industrial societies, but it was never intended to be published as a finished scheme. We owe the publication of our rules in their present imperfect state to what I cannot but regard as a questionable trick. The President of the Branch of the British Medical Association, without consulting our committee, went to our printers and got four hundred copies struck off from our type, which is still standing for further corrections. There was really no occasion for an act of this kind, since he could have had copies from us by simply asking for them.

As to our scale of remuneration for professional services, that was determined on the evidence of labour representatives on our committee, who are also officers of large provident and sick societies; and if the statements of the honorary secretary of the Birmingham General Provident and Benevolent Institution, which appear in the *Daily Post* of to-day, be correct, our scale of remuneration will bear favourable comparison with that of existing dispensaries. The following is an extract from his letter.

"I beg to point out that this is not a new idea. It has not only been long felt, but, by the exertions of the late Mr. Sanders, M.R.C.S., it was put into practice, and ever since 1833 has been carried out by the Birmingham General Provident and Benevolent Institution, the chief office being No. 49, Ann Street, and it numbers now over five thousand members. In this self-supporting, not charitable, institution, any party, male or female, can provide for themselves medical attendance and medicine in case of illness by the payment of 4d. per month or 4s. per year, and for their children at a lower rate. For the payment of 4d. per month, or 4s. a year, the members have the right to call in the attendance of any one on a list of twenty-four surgeons (and as a list I may say it is second to none), and residing in all parts of the town; thus giving the members the privilege, on changing their residence, to select a surgeon in their own immediate locality. Another privilege, which I believe no other society can offer, is that a member, on changing his residence, can pay his contributions without having far to go, the society having about twenty offices scattered all about the town."

The other statement to which I would refer is altogether personal, and affects myself. It is as follows. "The Town Hall Committee decided that the first dispensary should be established at Hockley, and that it should begin with a staff of four surgeons: the honorary secretary of the committee, an Unitarian minister, thereupon visited three members of the Birmingham Branch of the Association, and proposed that they should become surgeons to the projected dispensary." Nearly the whole of this paragraph is pure romance. The committee did propose to open an experimental dispensary in Hockley after consultation with all the medical men in that district, but did not resolve that they would begin with a staff of four surgeons; and the honorary secretary was not empowered to make proposals to any surgeon, and he never made any. The committee has not even considered the immediate appointment of surgeons, and has not, therefore, passed any resolution on the subject, and my interview with four medical men was entirely unofficial. These gentlemen could not have understood that it was in my power to treat with them. My object in consulting them was simply to know for myself the nature and extent of professional objections to our scheme, and to dispose of the gentlemen, as far as I was able, to give our movement fair and generous consideration. They were most distinctly told that the laws were open to amendment, and were by no means finally