

## Correspondence.

### POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

LETTER FROM RICHARD GRIFFIN, ESQ.

SIR,—Again I must crave your indulgence for space to inform the Poor-Law medical officers that a Select Committee of the House of Commons has been appointed to inquire into the "Operation of the Laws relating to the Poor, etc." (See *Times*, Feb. 23, p. 8.) I, therefore, trust all who can give evidence on the present iniquitous system of the medical relief of the poor, will not fail to tender their evidence, and do their utmost to improve the laws, which now inflict much cruelty on the poor, and are so grindingly oppressive to the medical profession. I have addressed a letter to the Chairman of the Select Committee on Poor-law Administration, House of Commons, requesting to know when I may attend to give evidence. If my professional brethren will do likewise, I have little doubt they will receive all necessary information; but no time should be lost.

On the first of this month, Mr. Serjeant Pigott wrote to me in respect of our proposed Bill, as follows: "Mr. Villiers' Committee is just the opening you require; and the evidence of all the matters related in your Preamble would be received by that Committee. After their report, the field for legislation will be well prepared." I regret I cannot guarantee the expenses of those gentlemen who may come to town; as some of my friends have of late grown rather penurious, and the funds will not permit it; but I believe the Select Committee will pay *a something*.

I have this day received a letter from Dr. Bisset Hawkins, kindly enclosing a cheque for £5 "towards defraying the expenses of the proposed application to Parliament"; and I have also received within the last two months about seventy subscriptions from Poor-law medical officers. I wish I could say seven hundred instead of seventy; for then I should be in a position to print a large mass of evidence and send it to each member of the House of Commons, and thus have ensured a thorough knowledge of our grievances.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GRIFFIN.

12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, February 26th, 1861.

[We need hardly say, that the profession is deeply indebted to Mr. Griffin for his strenuous efforts in so just a cause. Although he may not have succeeded in obtaining the justice he seeks, it is certain that he has attracted the serious attention of the legislature to the case of Medical Poor-law relief, and has thus promoted and hastened on the reform desired. ED.]

### COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS.

SIR,—Will you permit me to suggest an addition to your just animadversions on Dr. Alexander Wood's recent after-dinner lucubrations at the Edinburgh College of Physicians?

You have omitted to state that the regulations of the London College of Physicians regarding the new order of licentiates, exact a curriculum of *four* years from candidates, instead of *three*, as required by the College of Surgeons and by the Apothecaries; and that the theoretical and practical character of the examinations is in every way calculated to elevate the profession, rather than to depress it. Did our College intend to tread in the footsteps of the Edinburgh Corporation, it would not have adopted measures which must, for a time at least, deter the bulk of general practitioners from approaching its portals. It would not have prohibited the open shop, and the making up of prescriptions for other men's

patients, had its only object been to fill its pockets by virtue of its *prestige*.

Whatever the former faults of our ancient Corporation, the present generation of London Fellows have read the signs of the times rightly, and are doing their best to raise Medicine to the social dignity it merits, by reducing its trading associations to the minimum permitted by the present usages of the land.

Allow me to take the opportunity of congratulating you upon the vigorous development recently manifested by the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*. I am, etc.,

A FELLOW OF THE LONDON COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS.

February 22, 1861.

## Medical News.

### APPOINTMENTS.

ROYAL ARMY. The following appointments have been made:—

GREER, Staff-Surgeon A. J., to be Surgeon 21st Foot, *vice* Mackinnon.  
HOLTON, Staff-Surgeon F. M.B., to be Surg. 77th Foot, *vice* Jones.  
JONES, Surgeon H. H. M.D., 77th Foot, to be Staff-Surg., *vice* Greer.  
MACKINNON, Surgeon D. R., M.D., 21st Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon, *vice* Holton.  
MARTIN, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon C., to be Staff-Surgeon, *vice* Abbott.

ROYAL NAVY. The following appointments have been made:—

KING, Alfred, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Isis*.

VOLUNTEER CORPS. The following appointments have been made (A.V.—Artillery Volunteers; R.V.—Rifle Volunteers):—

BRETT, A. T., M.D., to be Surgeon 1st Battalion Hertfordshire R.V.  
GARRINGTON, W. H., Esq., to be Surgeon 1st Administrative Brigade Hampshire A.V.  
HAILEY, H., Esq., to be Honorary Surgeon 6th Bucks R.V.  
HIRON, T. W., Esq., to be Surg. Warwickshire Yeomanry Cavalry.  
HOAR, Wm., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 3rd Battalion, 1st Corps, Kent R.V.  
ROOTS, W. S., Esq., to be Surgeon 12th Surrey R.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

ARNISON, G., Esq., 20th Durham R.V.  
CULLING, R., Esq., 25th Somerset R.V.  
FENTON, H., Esq., 1st Shropshire R.V.  
HEMMING, C., M.D., 4th Berkshire R.V.  
ILES, F. H. W., Esq., 2nd Hertfordshire R.V.  
LAWRENCE, J., M.D., 12th Company Ayrshire R.V.  
M'LEOD, D., Esq., 5th Roxburghshire R.V.  
SEARLE, R. B., Esq., 10th Cornwall A.V.  
SCOTT, T. A. F., Esq., 9th Company Dumfriesshire R.V.

### DEATHS.

ARAX, F., M.D., at Paris, aged 44, on February 22.  
LAUDER. On February 17, at 8, Sloane Street, Harriet, widow of the late W. Preston Lauder, M.D., F.R.S.E.  
SMITH. On February 21, at 27, Westbourne Terrace, Laura, wife of Clement Smith, M.D., Her Majesty's Bengal Army.  
STRINGER. On February 22, at Kennington, Catherine, wife of James Stringer, Esq., Surgeon.  
WARD. On February 21, at 29, Finsbury Circus, aged 38, Georgiana B., wife of Stephen H. Ward, M.D.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. On February 21st, the degree of Bachelor in Medicine was conferred on Reginald Southey, Christ Church.

ARMY ESTIMATES. The army Hospital corps numbers 1,002 of all ranks. On this staff there are 473 medical officers. The pay for the medical staff amounts to £105,031.

NEW COMMISSIONER IN LUNACY. The Lord Chancellor has appointed John Forster, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, late Secretary to the Commission, to be a Commissioner in Lunacy, on the resignation of Bryan Waller Procter, Esq.

**HUNTER'S MANUSCRIPTS.** We learn that Professor Owen has brought to a completion his task of editing the hitherto unpublished manuscripts of John Hunter. The work will, we understand, afford additional evidence of the industry and genius of the great surgeon and physiologist.

**NITRIFICATION.** Millon has observed that *nitre* is always produced with regularity provided a humus product, an ammoniacal salt, and a mixture of earthy carbonates, are present, the solid mass being constantly moistened and exposed to the air. The action of the alkaline humate is to absorb oxygen, and this oxidation is transferred to the ammonia, which hereby becomes converted into nitric acid. (*Chemist and Druggist.*)

**MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.** The president of this society, Dr. Garrod, gave a *conversazione* at his residence on Wednesday evening last. It was attended by above two hundred Fellows of the society and visitors. The annual general meeting of the society, for the election of officers for the ensuing year, will be held next Monday evening; and the eighty-eighth anniversary meeting will take place on Friday, the 8th instant, at the Thatched House Tavern.

**HUMBOLDT'S LIBRARY.** The admirers of Humboldt will soon have an opportunity of acquiring souvenirs of that philosopher. Mr. Henry Stephens, who purchased the Baron's library, purposes selling it by auction; and as the library is of a miscellaneous character, comprising rare, stately, and costly folios and quartos, as well as unimportant octavos, it will be within the means of the majority of book collectors to purchase, if so inclined, a memorial of the great physicist's library.

**RODENT ULCER.** This is not at all affected by internal medicines. The great object is to remove the whole of the diseased parts, and to procure a soft and supple cicatrix. There must be no tension on the cicatrix, as this will certainly cause a relapse. You may use deep escharotics, such as the chloride of zinc. In some parts, however, as the eyelids, escharotics are inadmissible: here free excision should be used, followed by transplantation of healthy skin from the neighbouring part. (*Mr. Hutchinson.*)

**OZONE.** Messrs. Andrews and Tait have communicated to the Royal Society the results of their experiments on the volumetric changes which occur in the formation of *ozone*. They find that when *ozone* is formed from pure oxygen, by the action of the electrical discharge, there is a considerable condensation; so that, if the allotropic view of the constitution of *ozone* be correct, the density of that body, as compared with oxygen, would be represented by a number corresponding to the density of a *solid* or *liquid*, rather than that of a *gaseous* substance. (*Chemist and Druggist.*)

**DONATIONS TO MEDICAL CHARITIES.** The following Medical Charities have received a share of the balance of the sum (remaining in the hands of the Lord Mayor) which was subscribed for the distressed working classes during the past winter: viz., the City Dispensary, £15; the Metropolitan Dispensary, £15; the City of London Dispensary, Finsbury, £15; the Farringdon Dispensary, £15; the London Philanthropic Society, £25; the Truss Society, £20; the London Hospital £50; the Poplar Hospital, £50; the Free Hospital, Gray's-inn-road, £30; the Free Hospital, Devonshire-square, £30; the Brompton Hospital for Consumption, £30; the Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria park, £30; the Ophthalmic Hospital, City, £20; the Ophthalmic Hospital, Gray's-inn-road, £20; the Seamen's Hospital, £30; the Sea Bathing Infirmary, £30.

**HEALTH OF LONDON, WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 25TH.** Zymotic diseases in the aggregate were fatal last week in 283 cases, whilst the corrected average of corresponding weeks is 272. Seven very young children died from small-pox; 20 children from measles; 36 from scarla-

tina; and there were also 11 deaths from diphtheria. Whooping-cough carried off 78 children. Ten deaths, 7 of which were of children, were caused by syphilitic disease; and there were 2 from intemperance, besides 2 from delirium tremens. The most fatal disease in the list is from bronchitis, which was fatal in 188 cases; the next is phthisis, fatal in 149. The mortality of the former differs little from the average; that of the latter is below it. Eleven deaths were caused by suffocation, 7 of which occurred in bed, and 3 were by the impaction of food or other substance in the throat. Two children were burnt by their clothes taking fire; two by other means; five children were fatally scalded, among whom was a boy scalded by drinking hot water from a teapot. The deaths of two centenarians, a widow aged 100 years, and a man 102 years, were recorded in the week.

**OPINION OF COUNSEL ON THE CASE OF THE DUBLIN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, REFERRED TO THEM BY THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.** 1. Supposing the College to have no larger powers than are disclosed in the case laid before the Attorney-General of Ireland, we are clearly of opinion that it has no power to confer the degree of Doctor Medicine; and without the degree there can be no right to title, to whatever extent it may have been conceded by courtesy. 2. We are of opinion that the title in question is not one of the qualifications mentioned in Schedule (A) of the Medical Act, which only mentions Fellows and Licentiates of the Irish College of Physicians. 3 and 4. We think that the Registrar of the General Council is not bound to copy into the General Register entries in the Local Register which on their face are erroneous, nor to enter as qualifications particulars which are not within the terms of the Act, and are contrary to the orders and regulations of the Council. The remedy should, in our opinions, be found in a correction of the Local Register. We think it the duty of the Local Registrar to keep his Register in conformity with the lawful directions of the General Council, or of the Executive Committee, to whom they have delegated their powers; and if he fails in this duty probably a *mandamus* could be obtained to compel him to perform it. It is, however, most likely that as the General Council have the power of publishing the Medical Register in the proper form, it will be found that this is practically the only matter of importance; and the Irish Branch Council will think it useless to continue the controversy. (Signed) H. M. CAIRNS.

Lincoln's Inn, Jan. 31st, 1861. ARTHUR HOBHOUSE.

**NEWSPAPER REPORT OF MEDICAL SOCIETIES.** The New York Academy of Medicine has commenced a new presidential term, by placing, in the most unqualified manner, its seal of disapprobation upon the newspaper reports of its proceedings. At a late meeting, the following resolutions were passed with but one dissenting voice:—"Whereas, Section 3 of Article 1 of the Code of Ethics American Medical Association, adopted by this Academy, declares it to be "derogatory to the dignity of the profession" to publish cases and operations in the daily prints, or to suffer such publications to be made, and that such proceedings "are the ordinary practice of empirics and highly reprehensible in a regular physician," therefore,—Resolved, That the practice heretofore in vogue in this Academy of permitting reporters of secular papers to attend its meetings, take notes of its proceedings, and publish them, is in violation of said code, and is hereby prohibited in future.—Resolved, That it is equally in violation of the said code for Fellows of the Academy to publish, or cause to be published, any transactions thereof, in any other than strictly medical journals.—Resolved, That nothing in the aforesaid resolutions shall be so construed as to preclude the Academy, at its discretion, from publishing in the newspapers any of its discussions or of its acts relating to hygiene or to public health.

## OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Royal Free, 2 P.M.—Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.  
TUESDAY....Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY...St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.  
THURSDAY....St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—London, 1'30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.  
FRIDAY.....Westminster Ophthalmic, 1'30 P.M.  
SATURDAY....St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1'30 P.M.—King's College, 1'30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.

## MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY. Medical, 7 P.M.: Election of Officers and Council; 8.30 P.M.: Dr. Kidd, "On Chloroform."—Epidemiological, 8 P.M.: Dr. B. W. Richardson, "Further Inquiries on Scarlet Fever."—Entomological.—Odontological, 8 P.M.  
TUESDAY. Royal College of Surgeons, 4 P.M.: Professor Savory on Food.—Pathological.—Photographical.  
WEDNESDAY. Royal College of Physicians, 4 P.M.: Dr. Guy on Tabular Analysis applied to the Discovery of Truth in Medicine and the Allied Sciences.—Obstetrical, 8 P.M.: Dr. Madge on a Case of Uterine Hematocele; Mr. Baker Brown on the Treatment of Fibrous Tumours of the Uterus; Dr. Tanner on a New Form of Vaginal Pessary.—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.—Geological.—Pharmaceutical, 8.30 P.M.—Ethnological.  
THURSDAY. Royal College of Surgeons, 4 P.M.: Professor Savory on Food.—Harveian, 8 P.M.—Royal, 8.30 P.M.—Antiquarian.—Linnean, 8 P.M.—Chemical, 8 P.M.  
FRIDAY. Royal College of Physicians, 4 P.M.: Dr. Barker on Diseases of the Serous Membranes.—Medical, 5 P.M. (Anniversary Meeting).—Western Medical and Surgical, 8 P.M.—Astronomical, 8 P.M.—Royal Institution.  
SATURDAY. Royal College of Surgeons, 4 P.M.: Professor Savory on Food.—Asiatic.—Royal Botanical.

## POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—FEBRUARY 23RD, 1861.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.	Deaths.
During week.....	{ Boys ..1035 }	1891 1328
	{ Girls... 856 }	
Average of corresponding weeks 1851-60.....		1781 1414

*Barometer:*  
Highest (Sun.) 29.578; lowest (Th.) 29.271; mean 29.461.  
*Thermometer:*  
Highest in sun—extremes (Mon.) 97 degrees; (Sat.) 50 degrees.  
In shade—highest (Sun.) 56 degrees; lowest (Wed.) 35.7 degrees.  
Mean—45.9 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs. 47.4 degrees.  
Range—during week, 20.3 degrees; mean daily, 12.1 degrees.  
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100) 93.  
Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.55.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**\*\* All letters and communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.**

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

MR. W. MARTIN.—The subject to which our correspondent alludes has been already under consideration; and we hope that we shall soon be able to supply what he desires.

DR. MITCHELL.—We have much pleasure in inserting the following note:—

"Liverpool, 21 Bedford Street South.—SIR,—My attention has been called to a notice of an advertisement which appeared in a Manchester paper. I beg to say that I had nothing to do with its insertion, was much annoyed when I heard of it, and used prompt means to prevent its reappearance.

I am, etc., THOS. R. MITCHELL, M.D., F.R.C.S.I.

DR. S. H.—The original impression of our correspondent is the right one. The quotation runs:—"Vixere fortes ante Agamemnona multi." (*Horace*).

THE EPIGRAM ON DR. LETTSON.—SIR: Dr. Wollaston, in his interesting letter of last week, has fallen slightly into error regarding the epigram which he quotes. It was not written by Dr. Lettson, but upon him, and ran thus:—

"Whatever patients come to I,  
I physics, bleeds, and sweats 'em;  
If after that they choose to die,  
What's that to me?—I. LETTSON."

To the credit of his good nature, the doctor, who was something of a humourist, not only forgave but enjoyed the joke.

I am, etc., ROBERT H. BOWNESS, M.D.

Poulton-le-Fylde, Feb. 26th, 1861.

MR. S. FELCE.—The late Mr. Smith of Southam is the gentleman to whom our correspondent refers. We forward an account of a model self-supporting dispensary—the Northampton Dispensary—in which all the particulars required will probably be found.

R. S. W.—Our correspondent will see, on reference to the JOURNAL, that we have not expressed any doubt as to the powers of a Board of Guardians to attend to the directions given, for the relief of a sick pauper, by a medical practitioner, although not their own doctor. What we stated was, that the Board is not bound to do so. Our correspondent sends us a document which shows that Boards of Guardians have the power given them of attending to the directions of any medical practitioner in attendance on a sick pauper.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—DR. L. BEALE; DR. T. H. BARKER; DR. ROBERTS; MR. W. JESSOP; DR. SIEVEKING; MR. TOYNBEE; MR. LEGGIE; DR. KELLY; MR. SAVERY; DR. COWAN; MR. A. PRICHARD; DR. KIDD; DR. HARE; MR. DANIELL; DR. HOSKINS; DR. MURCHISON; MR. JAS. GARDNER; DR. HAUGHTON; MR. W. W. JONES; MR. A. MEADOWS; MR. S. WOOD; DR. BOWNESS; DR. MCWILLIAM; MR. P. C. PRICE; DR. CORMACK; MR. R. DUNN; DR. MITCHELL; DR. SANDWICH; DR. WOLLASTON; DR. ALDERSON; MR. PEMBERTON; and MR. DE MORGAN.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. A Manual of Elementary Chemistry, Theoretical and Practical. By George Fowles, F.R.S. Eighth edition, revised and corrected. London: Churchill. 1861.
2. On Diseases Peculiar to Women, including Displacements of the Uterus. By Hugh L. Hodge, M.D. With Original Illustrations. Philadelphia: Blanchard and Lea. London: Trübner and Co. 1860.
3. Dairy Stock: its Selection, Diseases, and Produce. With a Description of the Britanny Breed. By John Gamgee. Edinburgh: Thomas Jack. 1861.
4. The Foot and its Covering: with Dr. Camper's Work on the Best Form of Shoe. By James Dowie. London.
5. The Roman or Turkish Bath: its Hygienic and Curative Properties. By William Potter. Manchester: T. Dinham and Co. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.
6. Hints on Insanity. By John Millar, L.R.C.P. Edin. London: Henry Renshaw. 1861.
7. On Insufficiency of the Aortic Valves, etc. By John Cockle, M.D. London: 1861.
8. The Practice of Hiring Wet-Nurses, etc. By M. A. Baines. 1861.
9. The Comparative Properties of Human and Animal Milks, etc. By M. A. Baines. 1861.
10. On the Waxy or Amyloid Degeneration of the Kidneys. By T. Grainger Stewart, M.D. Edinburgh: 1861.
11. Thoughts on Satanic Influence. By C. Cowan, M.D.
12. Thoughts on Prophecy. By C. Cowan, M.D.
13. Letter on Lunacy Law. By P. R. Nesbitt, M.D.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

### Williams & Son's Pure Glycerine

SOAP, analysed by Dr. Hofmann, F.R.S., and PROFESSOR REDWOOD, Ph.D., strongly recommended by many eminent Members of the Medical Profession, and favourably noticed by the following Medical Journals.

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