

REPORTS AND ANALYSES

AND

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS

IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, DIETETICS, AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES.

TINCTURE OF CASCA.

CASCA (the bark of *Erythrophloeum Guinense*. Synonyms: "Cassa", "Gidu", "Saucy", "Sassy", "Doom", and "Ordeal Bark") has hitherto been of interest chiefly on account of its use as an ordeal poison on the Western Coast of Africa, where it is used as a test of the innocence or guilt of persons suspected of witchcraft, secret murder, and other crimes; but, recently, special pharmaceutical interest has been imparted to it by Dr. Lauder Brunton, who, in a lecture delivered at the Royal College of Physicians, London, published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of March 29th and 31st, 1877, gave the result of his investigations of it, and, in speaking of its physiological action, described it as "a drug which strengthens and slows the heart, contracts the arterioles, and increases the urine". The interest excited by this lecture was such, that many of the profession were desirous of availing themselves of such a valuable remedy; but, for some time, it was impossible to obtain a supply of the drug, owing, it is stated, to the precautions taken by the natives to prevent its falling into the hands of Europeans. Mr. J. S. Walton, F.C.S., to whom we are indebted for the information concerning this drug, succeeded recently, however, in obtaining, on behalf of Messrs. Gale and Co., of Bouverie Street, a consignment of casca bark; and, with a view to presenting it in the best form for administration, as well as to ascertain the dose and to separate the active principle, performed some experiments for Dr. Brunton, at whose request they are published, together with the following description of the drug, which had been derived chiefly from the writings of Proctor and others in the *American Journal of Pharmacy*. "Casca bark is obtained from *Erythrophloeum Guinense*, natural order Leguminosae, a tall tropical African tree with numerous spreading branches, which are covered with a smooth greyish bark, that of the trunk and larger branches being rough, corrugated and fissured, and of a reddish-brown colour, with light-coloured dots; the interior is generally of a deep brown colour. A smooth section of the bark exhibits numerous fawn-coloured cylindrical bodies, from half to two lines long, of a dense brittle texture, increasing in number in the older bark, and towards the inner surface. The bark has a faint odour and an astringent taste, without bitterness, leaving a slight tingling sensation. The astringency is due to tannic acid, which is present in the reddish portion, but not in the fawn-coloured spots; so rich is the bark in tannic acid, that it has been suggested that it might be advantageously used for the purpose of tanning in those parts where the tree grows naturally. The bark breaks with an abrupt fracture, and is readily powdered; but it requires great care, as the dust, when inhaled by the nose, causes violent sneezing." Proctor gives the following quotation from Bowditch's *Ashantee*

"Taking 'doom' is the infallible test when they consider the case too doubtful for human decision. The bark of that tree (viz., the 'doom plant') is put into a large calabash with water, so as to make a strong infusion; it is stirred up, when the suspected parties sip in turn. It operates immediately and convulsively as a most violent emetic and purge. Those who sip first may recover, and the dregs are frequently left designedly for the obnoxious."

A fuller and more interesting account of Casca bark, as an ordeal poison, is given by Winterbottom, in his *Sierra Leone* (vol. i, p. 129), and quoted by Proctor (*American Journal of Pharmacy*).

Chemical and Pharmaceutical Examination.—The following experiments were conducted in accordance with the suggestion of Dr. Brunton, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of alcoholic extract, and of extractive matter, insoluble in alcohol, but soluble in water, present in the bark, and to separate the active principle.

Alcoholic Extract.—Knowing the difficulty of exhausting the bark, Mr. Walton deemed it advisable to reduce it to a very fine powder, which was attended with considerable personal inconvenience, and gave an opportunity of verifying the statement as to its action on the nose; for although he took the precaution to muffle the mortar, and to cover his nose and mouth with a cloth, yet he inhaled a sufficient quantity to produce violent paroxysms of sneezing, accompanied with a giddy feeling and oppression in the chest, as if it were contracted by means of a bandage, so as to render it difficult to draw a full breath: the eyes also assumed a glassy appearance, with a tightness in the forehead and a confused feeling in the head. Those symptoms continued for several

hours, and were also experienced, to a certain extent, by his laboratory assistant, who took part in powdering the bark.

Having obtained sixteen troy ounces of finely powdered bark, Mr. Walton packed it tightly in a strong cucumber-glass, with a perforated cork at the bottom, covered with a layer of coarsely powdered glass; the top of this percolator was fitted with a sound cork, through which was passed the end of a stout piece of glass tubing, about six feet long and one inch in diameter. With this apparatus, he proceeded to exhaust the bark, by means of column pressure, with alcohol of 56 deg., and continued to percolate until the spirit passed through colourless. The resulting tincture, on being distilled, yielded a reddish-brown extract, in the proportion of twenty-five per cent. of the bark used.

Aqueous Extract, or extractive inseparable by alcohol, was obtained by passing distilled water through the powder left in the percolator, after exhausting with alcohol; the aqueous solution, on being evaporated, left a hard extract of a deep brown colour, weighing two hundred and twenty grains.

Active Principle.—This was obtained, in small quantity, by exhausting the bark with water acidulated with sulphuric acid, neutralising with ammonia, which gave a reddish-brown precipitate, which was separated by filtration, washed with distilled water, and mixed with purified animal charcoal, and dried over a water-bath. It was then boiled with absolute alcohol, filtered, and the filter washed with more alcohol. This solution, on being concentrated, possessed a greenish fluorescence; after standing a few days, it was found to have yielded minute acicular crystals.

Having thus far completed the experiments indicated by Dr. Brunton, Mr. Walton proceeded to prepare for him solutions containing definite amounts of alcoholic extract and of aqueous extract.

In order to prevent any confusion or mistake in the nomenclature of this drug, owing to its similarity in name to cascarilla, sometimes abbreviated "cascar.", it has been suggested that the tincture, which is the preparation recommended to be used, should be called "tinctura erythrophloeæ", and the alkaloid "erythrophleine".

SELECTIONS FROM JOURNALS.

PHYSIOLOGY.

THE THEORY OF SLEEP.—A. Strumpell (*Pflüger's Archiv*) reports the case of a patient aged 16, the whole of whose cutaneous surface was completely insensible, so that the strongest stimuli applied to the skin did not excite any expression of pain. A similar anæsthesia was shown in nearly all the accessible mucous membranes of the body, and muscular sensibility was completely wanting. In addition to this, there was a complete loss of smell and taste. Finally, the right eye was amaurotic, and the left ear deaf; so that, when the left eye was bound up and the right ear stopped, there was no further avenue of stimulus to the patient's brain. When the latter experiment was actually carried out, the patient in about five minutes sank into a deep sleep, from which he could only be roused by the stimulus to the ear or by the stimulus of light; he could not be shaken only. When he was left to himself, he awoke in the course of the day, after many hours' sleep, either through internal stimuli or from the excitation of the brain through slight and unavoidable stimuli from without.

DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

PNEUMOTHORAX IN A NEW-BORN CHILD.—Dr. Carl Ruge (*Zeitschrift für Geburtshülfe und Gynäkologie*, Band ii, 1 Heft) describes the appearances found in a child which was easily delivered by the feet. At first, it was somewhat in a state of asphyxia; it afterwards cried a good deal, but died suddenly twelve hours after birth in a state of cyanosis. About twenty-four hours after death, there was found to be a swelling of the sternal portion of the left sterno-mastoid muscle, great enlargement of the suprarenal bodies by effusion of blood into their parenchyma, and pneumothorax with hæmatothorax in consequence of rupture of the pleura. Air escaped on opening the thorax; the heart was displaced to the right, quite beyond the middle line. The right auricle was distended with a large fresh blood-clot. The left lung contained air in parts only; the pleura showed ecchymoses; at the base was an emphysematous bulla as large as a pea; and on the lower and posterior lobes, passing from above downwards, was an irregularly notched rent 3 centimètres (1.2 inches) long. The author supposes that the pneumothorax was the result of violent inspiration in consequence of the obstruction of the left lung by mucus, meconium, etc.; and that the emphysema, at first alveolar and afterwards sub-pleural, caused rupture of the pleura, probably before birth.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

AN extraordinary general meeting of the Association, called by requisition, was held at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on the 2nd instant, at 3 P.M. Dr. EASON WILKINSON, President, occupied the Chair. The following members were present.

Agar, S. H., Esq., Henley-in-Arden; Anderson, Mrs. E. Garrett, M.D., London; Archer, J., Esq., Edgbaston, Birmingham; Archer, W. G., M.B., Birmingham; Arlidge, J. T., M.D., Newcastle, Staffordshire.

Baker, A., Esq., Birmingham; Barker, J., Esq., Coleshill; Bartleet, T. H., M.B., Birmingham; Bartolomé, M. M. De, M.B., Sheffield; Bassett, J., M.D., Birmingham; Bates, W., Esq., Birmingham; Batten, W. S., Esq., Bromsgrove; Bindley, P., M.B., Birmingham; Bodington, G., Esq., Sutton Coldfield; Bodington, C. F., M.D., Kingswinford; Borchardt, L., M.D., Manchester; Bracey, C. J., M.B., Birmingham; Bracey, W. A., Esq., Birmingham; Bradley, J. P., Esq., Birmingham; Brett, J., Esq., Birmingham.

Cameron, H. C., M.D., Glasgow; Carmichael, W., M.D., Edinburgh; Carpenter, A., M.D., Croydon; Carter, A. H., M.D., Birmingham; Chadwick, C., M.D., Tunbridge Wells; Chavasse, T. F., M.B., Birmingham; Clark, J., M.D., Lichfield; Clayton, W., Esq., Accrington; Clibborn, W., M.B., Birmingham; Cook, F., M.D., Cheltenham; Cornwall, J., Esq., Fairfield.

Day, H., M.D., Stafford; Donovan, W., Esq., Whitwick; Dunn, G. P., Esq., Hales Owen.

Eales, H., Esq., Birmingham; Eastwood, J. W., M.D., Darlington; Edginton, R. W., M.D., Birmingham; Elkington, G., Esq., Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Falconer, R. W., M.D., Bath; Fausset, H. J., M.B., Tamworth; Flinn, D. E., Esq., Brownhills; Foster, B., M.D., Birmingham; Fox, E. Long, M.D., Clifton; Freer, A., Esq., Stourbridge.

Gamgee, S., Esq., Birmingham; Garman, J. C., Esq., Wednesbury; Goulder, F. S., Esq., Dudley; Gray, F. J., Esq., Rugeley; Grigg, W. C., M.D., London; Guthrie, G., M.B., Lichfield.

Hadley, J. J., Esq., Tamworth; Harmar, J., Esq., Birmingham; Hartshorne, F. H., Esq., Broseley; Hayes, J., Esq., Stoke; Henry, A., M.D., London; Hex, H., Esq., Birmingham; Hickinbotham, J., M.D., Birmingham; Hiron, J. H., Esq., Studley; Holloway, G., Esq., Cannock; Holman, C., M.D., Reigate; Humphreys, J. K., Esq., Shrewsbury; Hunt, B., M.D., Birmingham; Hunt, J., Esq., Birmingham; Husband, W. D., Esq., York.

Jackson, A., Esq., Sheffield; Jackson, V., Esq., Wolverhampton; Johnston, J., M.B., Birmingham; Jolly, R., M.D., Birmingham; Jones, A., Esq., Dudley; Jones, G., Esq., Birmingham.

Kelty, P. M., Esq., Walsall; Ker, H. R., Esq., Dudley; Keyworth, J. A., M.D., Aston.

Lee-Strathy, F. R., M.D., Birmingham; Legge, W., Esq., Derby; Lewis, H., M.D., Folkestone; Lister, J., Esq., London; Lloyd, G. J., Esq., Birmingham; Lowe, H. G., Esq., Birmingham; Luce, J. J., M.D., Stratford-on-Avon; Lund, E., Esq., Manchester.

Machin, G. S., Esq., Birmingham; McVeagh, D., Esq., Coventry; Malet, H., M.B., Birmingham; Malins, E. M.D., Birmingham; Manby, F. E., Esq., Wolverhampton; Manley, J., Esq., West Bromwich; Marriott, C., Esq., Leamington; Mason, F., Esq., Bath; May, B., Esq., Birmingham; Monckton, D. H., M.D., Rugeley; Moore, M., Esq., Coventry.

Napper, A., Esq., Cranleigh; Nason, R. B., Esq., Nuneaton; Nicholson, R. H. B., Esq., Hull; Newnham, C. S., Esq., Wolverhampton.

Oakes, A., Esq., Birmingham; Owen, L., Esq., Birmingham.

Palmer, J. H., Esq., Birmingham; Parsons, C., M.D., Dover; Pemberton, O., Esq., Birmingham; Prosser, R., Esq., Bromsgrove.

Rickards, E., M.B., Birmingham; Roberts, B., M.D., Eastbourne; Rogers, J., M.D., London; Rowland, H. M., M.D., Malvern Wells; Russell, J., M.D., Birmingham.

Saundby, H., M.D., Birmingham; Savage, T., M.D., Birmingham; Sawyer, J., M.D., Birmingham; Scurrah, J. D., M.D., Birmingham; Sharp, J. H., Esq., Walsall; Shuttleworth, G. E., M.D., Lancaster; Skeate, Edwin, Esq., Bath; Smith, R., Esq., Birmingham; Smith, S. J., M.D., Bilston; Snell, Simeon, Esq., Sheffield; Solomon, J. V., Esq., Birmingham; Spanton, W. D., Esq., Hanley, Staffordshire; Sproston, W. H., Esq., Birmingham; Suffield, C. R., Esq., Birmingham.

Tait, L., Esq., Birmingham; Terry, H., Esq., Northampton; Thomas, H. W., Esq., Birmingham; Thompson, J., M.D., Leamington; Tibbits, J., M.D., Warwick; Totherick, J. V., M.D., Wolverhampton.

Underhill, T., M.D., West Bromwich.

Vawdrey, T. G., Esq., Handsworth.

Wade, W. F., M.B., Birmingham; Waters, E., M.D., Chester; Welch, J. B., M.B., Birmingham; West, J. F., Esq., Birmingham; Weston, G. F., Esq., Stafford; Whitcombe, W. P., Esq., Birmingham; Wilders, J. St. S., Esq., Birmingham; Wilkinson, M. A. E., M.D., Manchester; Williams, T. W., Esq., Birmingham; Wilson, H. C., M.D., Birmingham; Wise, R. S., M.D., Banbury; Wood, J., M.B., Birmingham; Wright, M. H., Esq., Birmingham.

Yates, G., Esq., Birmingham.

The SECRETARY (Mr. FRANCIS FOWKE) read the notice in the JOURNAL convening the meeting; and letters in excuse of absence were read from several members of Council. Dr. Waters, on behalf of Dr. A. P. Stewart, and Mr. A. Baker, on behalf of Mr. Wheelhouse, gave reasons for their not being present; the former in consequence of illness, the latter because of an important legal appointment.

THE REPORTS OF PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

Dr. GRIGG proposed the first of the resolutions given in the requisition calling the meeting. Before doing so, he said that, in order to avoid repetition and digression, and to try to do justice to the rather complicated subjects which he had to bring before the meeting, he had reduced to writing what he had to say on the different points, and with their permission would read it. Before performing the duty which was incumbent upon him of moving the resolutions included in the requisition to consider which the meeting was summoned, he had, at the request of two eminent members of the Association, Dr. Barnes and Dr. Quain, to read letters which they had addressed to him for the purpose of being communicated to the meeting.

Printed copies of the letters were handed to the members present; and that of Dr. Quain was read. On Dr. Grigg's proceeding to read the letter of Dr. Barnes,

Dr. A. CARPENTER rose to order. While willing to give to Dr. Grigg the fullest liberty of expounding his views, it could not be held that the meeting should hear Dr. Grigg read the written speeches of his friends who had not come. If Dr. Grigg would address himself to the subject of his resolution, the meeting would give him a fair hearing. [Cheers.]

Dr. GRIGG bowed to the view of the meeting thus expressed, and refrained from reading the letter of Dr. Barnes. He moved:

"That this meeting is of opinion that the Reports of the Proceedings of the Committee of Council should be published in as complete and intelligible a form as is consistent with the conduct of business; and that in no case should important resolutions affecting the general interests of the Association be omitted."

In stating the reasons which he thought the meeting might properly consider as conclusive in support of that resolution, he said that the proposition seemed self-evidently correct. It was, however, negatived at the last meeting of Committee of Council at which he moved the resolution. He could but hope that, having had further time for consideration, his colleagues in the Committee of Council would vote as unanimously in favour of the resolution at this meeting as they voted unanimously against it on March 13th. It was perhaps, however, proper to show why he thought it necessary to pass such a resolution at all. Had the Proceedings of the Committee of Council been published adequately? Take, for instance, the Reports of Proceedings at the last two meetings of Committee of Council, officially supplied for publication in the JOURNAL. Dr. Falconer had written to the JOURNAL that, if Dr. Grigg had attended the meeting of October 10th (to which he was never summoned), he would have known of the intention to take a shop and premises in the Strand, and to make an outlay on them, and to undertake printing; this having been fully discussed then, and decided upon in principle. He had read the published Report of Proceedings in the JOURNAL. In the first place, it was not published at all till six weeks after date; and, when published, it contained positively no reference at all to this highly important business, although it involved an expenditure of about £2,000 at least, and constitutes a new departure. He thought that, to call any such report a "Report of Proceedings" was an absurdity. All of the other business transacted, and which was reported, was mere routine—mere child's play—to this. Such a report was "the play of *Hamlet* without the Prince of Denmark." So with the Report of Proceedings, which was published in reference to the meeting in January. At that meeting of Committee of Council, it was definitely ordered that the seal of the Association should be affixed to the lease of the shop in the Strand. This was published. But it was also ordered that an expenditure of £1,000 be made on the repairs of the premises, and a further expenditure, which would probably amount to more than another £1,000, on plant and fittings. Well, this report also was not published till more than a month after date; and, when it did appear, all reference to the authorised expenditure of £1,000 and the projected expenditure of another £1,000 was again omitted. [Interruption.] These omissions were not accidental, for, first, he was forbidden by the General Secretary to communicate the facts to his Branch; secondly, when he publicly asked the President of Council to correct the omissions in the JOURNAL (which he expected would readily be done), then, as all knew, the President declined to do so; thirdly, that refusal to repair these omissions was subsequently approved by a deliberate vote of the Committee of Council. In fact, except from the information which his letters in the JOURNAL conveyed, the members had had no inkling of the fact that £2,000 of their money was to be spent in this way; and, up to this time, no official notification had been made of it, and the members had no cognisance of it except from himself. [Hear, hear.] There were other important omissions, to which he had referred in the letters which he had published in the JOURNAL on the subject; but to these, for the

sake of brevity, he should not refer. It would be seen that he did not ask for the publication of anything more than a fair and adequate report of the proceedings of Committee of Council. [*Hear, hear.*] Of course, minor details, routine payments, and private details were not what he spoke of; but, in the words of the resolution already adopted by the Council of the Metropolitan Counties Branch, and approved of by nearly 2,000 members of the Association, he moved:

"That this meeting is of opinion that the Reports of the Proceedings of the Committee of Council should be published in as complete and intelligible a form as is consistent with the conduct of business; and that in no case should important resolutions affecting the general interests of the Association be omitted."

Dr. JOSEPH ROGERS asked the President if, in the case of his seconding the resolution *sub silentio*, he would be shut out from speaking subsequently? [*Cries of "Certainly not!"*]

The PRESIDENT ruled that Dr. Rogers or any member who seconded a resolution in silence could speak subsequently.

Dr. ROGERS thanked the President, and seconded the resolution proposed by Dr. Grigg.

Mr. SAMPSON GAMGEE (President of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch) said he had taken upon himself to stand before the meeting to press the view that it was necessary for the proper and successful conduct of the Association, that the question of the publication of reports of proceedings in the Committee of Council should altogether be left to the discretion of the Committee of Council. [*Cheers.*] He had to appeal to the sympathy of the meeting in moving an amendment to the resolution proposed by Dr. Grigg. He appealed to their sympathy in taking this course, for he had not had the opportunity—not having the fortune to be a metropolitan member—of a long and intimate acquaintance with the mover of the resolution, though he had had a long and intimate acquaintance with the affairs of the Association—[*hear, hear*—] and the members would see how ingeniously Dr. Grigg had stated his case, how he had elaborated his details, how deep had been his inquiry, how well he had marshalled his facts, how great had been his deliberation, and the speaker hinted that the meeting would be as kind to him under the obviously disadvantageous circumstances in which he should labour in opposing the resolution thus placed before those present representing the Association. He objected to the resolution on its merits. The first part of it was of no very serious import either one way or the other, and this he should, with no want of respect to the mover—for it was a mere truism to say "that the reports of the proceedings"—those which the Committee of Council considered might be published—"should be published in as complete and intelligible a form as is consistent with the conduct of business". That was stating a truism to which all members might fairly assent without any violence to their feelings—[*a laugh*—] and in saying this he begged to congratulate Dr. Grigg upon the skill with which the resolutions were drawn. He hoped that he should have an opportunity of becoming better acquainted with Dr. Grigg, so struck was the speaker with admiration at the skill with which he had drawn up his case—with the ingenuous, not to say ingenious way, in which he had put his case, positively omitting no point whatever. It would be quite impossible for any body of men to do business if their hands were to be tied, as it was proposed to tie the hands of the Committee of Council in the second part of the first resolution, to which members must give their special attention. [*Hear, hear.*] What would the members of the Association in their individual capacities say if their bankers were bound to publish all their proceedings? how would business men care to have all their transactions published for the benefit of their rivals in business? [*Hear, hear, and cheers.*] It was often necessary to hold over in the Committee of Council resolutions, and this in the private interests of the Association; and it was often expedient, in the same interests, that resolutions should not be published at all. [*Cheers.*] The members must leave such matters in the hands and at the discretion of the governing body, and if they had confidence in that governing body they would do so. He also objected to the resolution in regard to its terms, for if it should be carried it would be a declaration of alienation of confidence in the Committee of Council; and he contended that if the Association had men to conduct their business they must have confidence in them. [*Cheers.*] The laws of the Association said that the business was to be vested in the Committee of Council; that might be right or it might be wrong; but he was not aware that the profession and the Association had protested against that law. [*Cheers.*] He himself was one who, in bygone days, thought that the Committee of Council had too much power, but now, if the Committee of Council should advise that greater extension should be given it, he should congratulate the Association, because he thought it was a wise course to educate as many as possible in the business of governing. [*Cheers.*]

The meeting at Birmingham in 1856 gave full powers to the Committee of Council, and how had they exercised it? Well, in 1858, the Association had 2,000 members and £800 of debt; and who then in 1858 would have predicted that in 1878 the Association would have 7,000 members, would have given £400 in the year for scientific grants, would have had a JOURNAL of the present character, and would have had a capital sum of its own invested? [*Cheers.*] There was present Dr. Falconer, who used to manage the finances of the Association when it had no money at all. [*Laughter and cheers.*] There were very few members then who were inclined to go in and share the responsibilities of the Committee of Council. Now, however, it seemed as if there were many candidates desiring to share the honours which the Committee of Council had won. [*Hear, hear.*] He maintained that the confidence which had so long been given to the Committee of Council, which had been given to them when there was no capital, should be given now they had accumulated capital; and that the Association should be that professional brotherhood, working for each other's good, which Sir Charles Hastings, its founder, designed it should be. To limit the confidence which the Association had in the Committee of Council would be to thwart those endeavours which had hitherto been exercised so much to the advantage of the Association. [*Cheers.*] If this confidence of the Association should be thus limited, who would undertake the duties now discharged by the Committee of Council? Would commercial men, who were directors of banks or other undertakings, submit to have their governing actions thus controlled? [*Hear, hear.*] He should like to ask if the Committee of Council had any fees for their discharge of duties for the Association? [*Laughter,* and the members of the Committee of Council present answered emphatically in the negative.] Well, then, if men who had fees would refuse a position if there was an implied want of trust, how much more would gentlemen, who received no fees, feel disinclined to carry on the business of the Association under the like circumstances. [*Hear, hear, and cheers.*] He apologised for using an offensive word to professional ears—the word "business". [*Laughter.*] His excuse must be that it was a word much used in that town. A large buyer of coals in that town had his bills sent in "Mr. So-and-so to the Earl of Dudley". [*Laughter.*] One peer of the realm, who had marriage connection with the reigning Royal family, had also a son in a "city tea-house"—but no doubt the metropolitan members of the Association, who knew, of course, all about the great city, could correct him if he were wrong—and these facts would show that he spoke of "business" in respectable company. In sober seriousness, the profession must not seem so to object to "business". The day when the members of the profession were looked up to as gods had passed—never to return; and the profession would have to appeal to the sympathy of their fellow-men by an intelligent discharge of their business duties. [*Hear.*] The manner of Dr. Grigg's speech had made him feel that he had not heard sufficient hitherto of Dr. Grigg; but he confessed he desired to see more of the Committee of Council's management, but he did not want to limit it. [*Hear, hear.*] There was particularly good reason why the Association should give its support to the Committee of Council at this time. It was twenty years ago since the passing of the Medical Act; and now, in 1878, Parliament was on the eve of legislation again. There were many important points in the Bill, and whether they became law would depend upon the Association, through the action of the Committee of Council. The Act of 1858, whatever might be its imperfections, was brought about by the Association in face of the opposition of some most important bodies. Now, in this year of legislation, it would be most unwise, to say nothing of the ingratitude of such a proceeding, to do anything which would seem like a limitation of the confidence in the Committee of Council, who gave the Association so much gratuitous labour. [*Cheers.*] He moved, as an amendment: "That it is necessary, for the successful transaction of the business of the Association, that the publication of reports of meetings of the Committee of Council should be left to the discretion of the Committee of Council."

Mr. WATKIN WILLIAMS, in seconding the amendment, said it gave him much pleasure in assisting to defend the action and privileges of the Committee of Council. He was not new to the business of the Association, and he was sure that it would be a fatal blow to the Association if the Committee of Council were to be hampered in respect to what they should or should not publish of their proceedings. [*Hear, hear.*] As Dr. Grigg's resolution stood, if carried, it would render it necessary upon the Committee of Council to publish all its business transactions; and, as had been said, this would be altogether contrary to prudence. The question was, Who should be the judge of what was to be published? And he held that, as the Association had grown from a few hundreds to be an Association of five thousand or six thousand members, and in a flourishing condition, the work could not

have been badly managed; and that, therefore, those who had conducted its affairs hitherto to this success were the best in which its affairs could still be left. [*Cheers.*] All that was necessary to say upon the subject had been so well put by Mr. Gamgee, that it would only be gilding refined gold to add to his words; but it must be urged that, if the Association were to continue to grow in status, numbers, and importance, it must change with the times, by going into the market where all men went who had to do with newspapers, and come face to face with those with whom they desired to do business—just as men desiring to trade with gunsmiths came to Birmingham. He knew nothing about the house in the Strand; but he had confidence that the Committee of Council would act honestly and fairly. [*Cheers.*] He did not say that they had never made a mistake, nor did he say they never would; but he said that fewer mistakes had been made by the Committee of Council than might have been expected, and he could give them the fullest confidence that, if any mistake should be made, it would not be because they were lax, or for the want of giving the subjects their best consideration. [*Cheers.*]

Dr. JOSEPH ROGERS said he had listened to the fervid eloquence of Mr. Gamgee, but had failed to catch much solid argument in that eloquence against the motion. Mr. Gamgee might be congratulated upon the fact that, if he stood only in the position of a "raw recruit", he had reached the head of his profession, and had so marshalled his views as to be worthy of promotion to the rank of a general officer. [*Laughter and cheers.*] Mr. Gamgee had addressed a very sympathetic audience, an audience in favour of his views. It was certainly a remarkable move to call the special meeting in Birmingham—it was more ingenious than ingenious. Dr. Grigg had two thousand answers in support of his view that the house in the Strand should not be taken, many of the metropolitan members being amongst the number. [*Cries of "Question", "Ex parte statement", "Order", and other interruptions.*] When Dr. Grigg sent those circular letters, he appealed to unbiased minds, by minds not to be swayed by eloquence like that of Mr. Gamgee. [*Cries of "Question".*] As to the action of the Committee of Council in regard to the house in the Strand. On October 10th, when it was first decided to take the house—

Dr. WADE rose to order. The question of the house was in the second resolution, and not in the first, then before the meeting. [*Hear, hear.*]

Dr. DAY said that Mr. Williams had not been called to order in his reference to the same subject.

Dr. ROGERS went on to say that the meeting would not have been called at Birmingham if it had not been for a purpose. [*Interruption.*]

Mr. WILLIAMS said that it had been the custom to call the meetings at Birmingham for many years.

Mr. A. BAKER believed that every special general meeting for the last fifteen years had been called at Birmingham.

Dr. ROGERS, proceeding, protested against attempts being made to shut out what he had to say. He did not want to make an attack on the Committee of Council; he did not say that the contemplated expenditure should not be made; but he maintained that, when it was contemplated to make so great an outlay, a general meeting should have been called. He knew that certain things in business matters ought to be kept back; but, when so large an amount of funds was intended to be sunk at once, it was felt by some that the Committee of Council had been led into a mistake.

Dr. EASTWOOD objected that the speech of Dr. Rogers did not bear upon the resolution before the meeting.

Mr. HUSBAND said that, if Dr. Rogers could show that something was being kept back by the Committee of Council which ought to have been made known, he had a right to do so; but he had no right at this stage to enter into the question of the propriety of taking these premises.

Dr. ROGERS said that the Committee of Council should have made their proposal to the whole body of their constituents. [*"So it was."*] Yes, six weeks after in one instance, and two months after in the other. He simply said that they were guilty of an imprudence, and one which he protested against.

A MEMBER asked if the Committee of Council, in what they had done, had exceeded their powers; and a reply in the negative was given.

Mr. HUSBAND said that, when gentlemen came to a meeting prepared to make charges, they should be very careful as to what they stated. Dr. Rogers, with the characteristic looseness of Dr. Grigg, had said that in October the Committee of Council determined upon the course they had adopted, when they had not determined upon any course at all. Dr. Rogers had spoken of the preconceived opinions of that meeting; but what was wanted was not any preconceived opinions upon the part of anyone, but a fair judgment as to the unfair attack

made upon the Committee of Council. He had facts before him which would exculpate the Committee of Council from all the charges made. In October—to give the facts—a report was made, or, rather, the subject was considered of taking premises; and this was the first time it was entered upon. It was not then determined upon. No resolution whatever was then passed. [*Hear, hear.*] The Committee of Council said: "This is a matter which requires grave and careful consideration." [*Hear.*] They said, with regard to the present offices, "We must get out of here; we are compelled to move."

A MEMBER rose to order. One question must not be mixed up with the other; and Mr. Husband was entering upon the second subject—the taking of the house. The meeting ought to be kept to the one resolution and to the amendment.

Mr. HUSBAND thought he must have been misunderstood, for he was keeping to the first question; he was not defending, then, the taking of the house, but was only showing that the Committee of Council had not suppressed anything. [*Hear, hear.*] He was speaking strictly to the purpose before the meeting, showing that the Committee of Council, at the time referred to, had nothing to conceal, for nothing was done, and the taking of the premises was another question altogether. As he was saying when interrupted, on the 10th of October last the Committee of Council considered the subject for the first time. They appointed a subcommittee, who reported to them, and it was not until the 9th of January that the lease was determined to be taken. There was some accidental delay in the arrangements, but when this delay was remedied the matter was published, so it was unjust to say that there had been any suppression. [*Hear, hear.*] As to the statement of expenditure upon the premises, there had not been a farthing yet expended, and nothing had been done but to take the building. If the Committee of Council had not taken it when they did, they would have lost it, and the action was as quickly as possible reported in the JOURNAL.

Dr. WADE said that the confusion which had arisen was owing to Dr. Grigg having put the cart before the horse in discussing a matter of secondary importance first, and it was almost impossible to touch upon one subject without touching upon the other. As to the charges of a "move" in regard to the meeting being called at Birmingham, the fact was that all the special meetings were called there, and he hoped that the result of this meeting would be a warning to members not to readily, so readily as they had in this case, sign requisitions for special general meetings. [*Hear, hear.*] Birmingham was the most suitable place for a meeting, for it was impossible for provincial men to come up to London and return in a day, whilst the majority of members could come to Birmingham and return in a day. [*Hear.*] Besides, in London there was an organised band for certain purposes, and he should be entirely opposed to a meeting to consider a requisition being held in a place where that requisition originated. [*Hear, hear.*]

Dr. GRIGG, in reply, said that, if Mr. Gamgee did not recognise him, he had pleasure in recognising Mr. Gamgee as an old and valued teacher. He complimented him on the energy and ability of his advocacy. He quite agreed that only suitable details should be published, and no minor matters. But the recent practice had been, in the official reports furnished to the JOURNAL, to omit amendments, and to omit reference to reports of Subcommittees. Now in this, more perhaps than most other Committees, the most important business was referred to and transacted by Subcommittees; and their reports, when adopted, constituted the most important parts of the proceedings, and those most necessary to be made known. His resolution only asked for a convenient and adequate report of proceedings. It could not be contended that the reports to which he referred were adequate or reasonable. The resolution seemed to be one which all parties who wished well to the Association should be willing and even eager to adopt.

A MEMBER asked whether, if the motion should be carried, the Committee of Council would take the vote as one of censure.

A chorus of voices responded, "Certainly".

Dr. GRIGG said that such was not his meaning.

Dr. BORCHARDT rejoined that in that case Dr. Grigg's words had not borne out his meaning.

The amendment was then put to the meeting and the great majority voted for it. "On the contrary" showed some ten hands. The amendment was then put as a substantive resolution, and the great majority voted for it, five hands only being held up against it. The amendment, thus taken as a substantive resolution, was declared carried, amid loud cheers.

THE NEW OFFICES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Dr. GRIGG said: I have now to move the second resolution which stands on the paper. It is—"That this meeting desires to express its opinion that, in the selection of a house for the Association, it is desirable that the Council, Committee, and waiting-rooms should be separate from the printing and publishing offices". There are only two main grounds on which a scheme such as that the Council have in hand can be supported. The first would be that it is the best thing which can be done for the business interests of the Association; and the second is, that it would advance the professional interests of the Association. I will take first the business interests. The scheme to which the seal of the Association has been set involves, as does not appear in the reports of the Proceedings of the Committee of Council, but as the fact is, not only the renting of a shop and house in the Strand at £320 a year, on a lease of twenty-one years, but also the expenditure on these premises of a capital sum of £1,000 in repairs, and of an amount estimated at least as much as about £500 for fittings, and £500 at least, probably more, for printer's plant, together with a loss of nine months' rent, which means an expenditure of nearly £300 more, making a grand total of £2,300. Now, the avowed reason set forth in the recently published statement of the Committee of Council on this subject is, that such a proceeding will conduce first of all to a considerable economy in printing, and will further increase the income from advertisements. I have found no small difficulty in checking the calculations upon which this estimate is based, because the President of Council, Dr. Falconer, thought it right to instruct the General Secretary not to give me the detailed information which I sought, with the object to put before this meeting a perfectly authentic criticism of these estimates, in order that the basis of a fair decision might be obtained. I have, notwithstanding, enough information to enable me to put before you figures which will help us all to judge for ourselves. In the first place, how is the economy to be realised? It is to be realised, we are told, by the Association undertaking for itself what is technically known as the composition of the JOURNAL, that is, the setting it in type. When this subject was last discussed at the Committee of Council, I heard mixed up with it a good deal about savings which had been effected by purchasing our own paper, and savings which had been effected by purchasing our own stamps, and others which will still be effected by contracting for what is known as our own steam "machining", that is, the printing of the JOURNAL—a distinct thing from the composition. All these are, however, not to the point. They all arise from the fact that for some years the increasing income from the larger circulation, and consequent improvement in advertising income, has enabled us to pay cash for our paper, and contract direct for it, instead of having to let Mr. Richards buy it for us, on the strength of his credit, and charge us a profit on it, taking payment from us for it, at such times and in such a manner as we were able to make payments. Of course our earlier struggling years of impecuniosity compelled us, like many other people, to buy in a dear market, and involved a waste of money. As ready money purchasers, we have of late years been able to save that margin of profit, which was formerly impossible while we were buying on credit. (*Hear, hear.*) I really do not know, and have not been able to learn, why we have omitted for the last few years to save the like margin of profit which would have been realised if we had contracted for our own machining. So far as I can make out, there is no reason for it; it ought to have been done two or three years ago; and should be done at once. We are and have been throwing away, according to the General Secretary's calculation (no doubt on good grounds), not far short of £200 a-year by not doing it. The economy, however, now held up before our eyes is to be realised solely in the composition, by employing our own compositors, instead of contracting with a printer. Now I have seen and checked the rough calculations of the Secretary upon which this supposed economy is based, and by which the Committee of Council, I regret to say, have been misled. It was stated at the last meeting of the Committee of Council, and may possibly be stated again here to-day, that that economy would amount to between £900 and a £1,000 a-year. That statement is *primâ facie* incredible, if not ridiculous, when we remember that the total cost of composition for the JOURNAL is only £1,900 a-year. It amounts to saying that we have been over-paying our present printer to the extent of £900 on an annual bill of £1,900—giving him a net profit of 90 per cent. on the composition of the JOURNAL. Such a statement would involve a profound reflection on the business management of the Association, as well as a great and most utterly unfounded reflection against our present printer—a man of the highest honour, and to whom, for a large part of twenty-five years, we have been much indebted, as Dr. Stewart could tell you, for rendering it possible even to maintain the very existence of the Association. At one period, the Association was indebted

to him above £2,500. It is well known that 12 per cent. is considered a fair printer's profit in contract work, for time and capital. Moreover, it has frequently been ascertained that Mr. Richards' contract price for composition of the JOURNAL was moderate, and even cheap. As a matter of fact, there has been no such overcharge, there is no such economy realisable; and the whole estimate is, I have convinced myself, by looking at it, and as you will convince yourselves in a few minutes, delusive and fallacious. The estimate which the Secretary has put before the Committee as promising these profits is roughly this. The actual cost of composition, as paid to Mr. Richards at the present for the JOURNAL is, *per annum*, about £1,900. Now the cost of wages of compositors, and of the services of one reader, if we were to employ our own men, would be £1,150; add 15 per cent. for replacing plant, say £75 *per annum*, and deduct this sum from that now paid in gross for composition, and the balance is £675; and this difference has been gravely put forward as a net realisable economy. A farther saving of £200 a-year is calculated on machining; but that—even if the calculation be correct, which it is not—we can save, without moving, by making our own contract with the machiner. Such a calculation as the above is, I may be pardoned for saying, really childish, and would be amusing if the matter were not so serious. If the JOURNAL were to be composed in the street—if there were no cost for rent, repairs, rates, taxes, gas, fire, water, insurance, extra cost of house-cleaning and caretaking, interest, and replacement of expended capital, wear and tear of stock, or none of those minor costs which in the conduct of every business have to be added to mere wages in order to estimate what production costs, then such an estimate would be allowable. But it is obvious that all these things have to be included in our estimate, and we are going to pay very heavily indeed for the rent of our printing and publishing shop and premises. It is obvious, therefore, that the calculation of profit must be corrected by such additions of expenditure for those items as necessarily belong to the account. Now I happen accidentally to have been called upon long since to acquire a considerable acquaintance with publishing and printing matters, and I can tell you roughly at once what is the addition which has to be made to the wages of compositors, or for other charges in printing-houses where everything to be included is calculated and managed by persons of large experience on the principles of rigid economy. It is an addition of fifty per cent. For that statement I can give you the highest authority. That is to say, if you are paying, say, £22 per week for compositors' wages, you must add to that £11 a week to know what the composition has cost you. As you will see, this rule of trade works out quite accurately when we come to a detailed estimate properly drawn up. Thus, the real calculation for our JOURNAL stands in this way:

Composition and reading for JOURNAL (thirty-two pages) including advertisements (£29 a week) .	£1,508
Difference of rent, rates, and taxes (deduct £110 from £400) .	290
Repairs .	40
Water, gas, coals, and insurance .	40
Extra cost of housekeeper and cleaner .	40
Warehouseman .	75
Extra clerk .	100
Capital and interest on £1,800 outlay (taking for twenty-one years, 3½ per cent.) .	120
Plant and renewal .	120

2,333

Now that £2,333 *per annum* is what it will really cost us to print our own JOURNAL, against £1,900 which we are paying now: thus showing no profit, but a loss of about £400. I will go further than this, for, being fully convinced from some knowledge which I have on all matters in connection with printing and publishing, that the professional printer really works at a very small margin of profit, and can from his collateral sources of occupation for his men, compose a weekly journal much more cheaply and efficiently than its proprietors can do it for themselves, I wrote last Friday to Mr. Richards, asking him whether, if he had a contract for five years for the composition of the JOURNAL, instead of his present hand-to-mouth tenure, he could make any reduction in his present contract price. I will read you his answer. [A letter was here read, in which Mr. Richards said that, with a five years' contract, he would be able to make a reduction of £175 a year on the journal of sixty-four pages; or, if the Association decided to do its own machining, to provide the composition of a JOURNAL of sixty-four pages for £2,080 *per annum*.] On the other hand, if we endorse the proposition of the Committee of Council to take the Strand premises and undertake our own composition, it will cost us, as I have shown, £400 more than we are now paying, and

£600 more on the reduced "five years' contract" which Mr. Richards is willing to undertake. I may say further, as a matter of fact, that the private proprietors of journals, such as the *Saturday Review*, *The World*, and other weekly journals of the kind, although certainly not less anxious than we should be to realise an economy in composition, have all, long since, satisfied themselves that it is to their advantage to have their journals composed and printed by large printers, such as Spottiswoode, Saville and Edwards, Robson, and the like, in whose hands has been placed the great majority of weekly journals similar to our own in London. I am aware of a large music publishing firm, who, after three years' trial, found that they lost £800 a year, by printing their own music. We may be quite sure that if private business proprietors do not find it to their commercial advantage to print their weekly papers, an amateur committee of medical men are not likely to make much profit by taking it into their hands. I have obtained on this subject the experience of one of the largest newspaper proprietors and most able publishers in London. [A letter was here read, confirming Dr. Grigg's opinion on the subject.] As a matter of fact I am satisfied that the General Secretary's calculation of profit upon our composition is so absolutely inadequate, and has omitted so entirely to take into consideration many ordinary commercial costs beyond and above those of mere wages, that it is absolutely and entirely untrustworthy, and I believe this meeting may rest assured that there is not only no profit in the scheme whatever, but an actual loss. If from considerations of economy we pass to those of efficiency, it is, of course, obvious that it is of very great convenience to have at disposal the whole composing staff of a great printing firm in case of emergency. My experienced colleague in the Metropolitan Counties Branch, Dr. Alexander Henry, has informed me that he especially directed the attention of the Committee of Council to this point in a letter, which I hope will be read at this meeting. He, after twenty-five years' experience of the JOURNAL, views with the greatest alarm the proposition to rely for producing the JOURNAL upon a restricted staff of compositors in our own employment. He tells me that it has been one of the great elements of efficiency in the JOURNAL, that when a great pressure of matter has come in on the last days, the services of a large staff of well-experienced printers could always be thrown in at once for extra composition; and that, for example, when the week before last an early copy of the Medical Bill was obtained late on Wednesday, it was printed at full length in the JOURNAL the next day, and in no other. This, Dr. Henry tells me, is liable to happen at any time; and the possibility of being able to meet the pressure is of great advantage to the JOURNAL. Dr. Henry is an excellent practical authority on the matter; he looks forward with the greatest apprehension to the proposed change, and I do not think that his opinion—that the proposed arrangements will not tend to the efficiency—is to be slighted. In fact, it has self-evident common sense in support of it. So much for economy and efficiency in printing. But then it has been said in a statement put forward by the Committee of Council, and will no doubt be again said to-day, that by taking a large office in a prominent position in the Strand, we shall improve our advertising connection. (*Hear, hear.*)

So far as I understand advertising, advertisers spend their money in proportion to the circulation of a journal, and not in admiration of its premises. So long as the JOURNAL was of small size and influence, and circulating only 1,800 to 2,000 copies, which was the case ten years ago, so long the advertisements brought in only £500 or £600 a-year. In proportion as the importance, popularity, and circulation of the JOURNAL increased, so did its income from advertisements increase; and without moving its premises at all, as its circulation rose, in five years, to four thousand or five thousand copies a-week, so did its advertisements concurrently rise to about the value of £2,000. In the subsequent five years, as its circulation has risen to between eight thousand and nine thousand copies a-week, so has its advertising income risen proportionately to about £4,000 a-year. If its circulation go on increasing, we may expect its income from advertisements to go on increasing. On the other hand, if the JOURNAL were to fall off in value and in circulation, and go back to its former standard of circulation of two thousand copies, you might take Buckingham Palace as an office, and that would not prevent its income from advertisements from falling off. [*Laughter.*] So far as advertisements go, they have risen as the circulation has increased, and that is the law of advertisements. There is no reason to suppose that we, as amateurs, can make a new law for ourselves. I went into these figures with the fullest desire to find that any economy was realisable; and until I had thoroughly examined the figures, I concluded that such was the case, although I saw, when the statement was made at the last Committee meeting, that the anticipated profit of £800 or £1000 was greatly over-calculated. If it had been, I by no means, for other grounds, think

that the present costly premises in the Strand, intended to combine the sale and printing-rooms of the JOURNAL with the professional home of the Association, are at all desirable. Nevertheless, it would have been extremely satisfactory, with the view even to a separate arrangement, to have had the possibility of realising an alleged saving in the printing-office. But it is altogether an error; the estimates were crude estimates; the estimate of profit is a document which any business man would laugh to scorn, and it bears its own fallacies on the face of it to anybody who looks at it, and who knows anything whatever on the subject of printing on the one hand and the details of the Association business on the other. I cannot easily conceive how such a document could ever have been put before us, the Committee of Council, by any one professing to act as their business officer, or how we, the Committee of Council, could have been induced to accept so ridiculous a statement, and publicly to adopt it in a resolution as the result of "an exhaustive inquiry". However, I leave that responsibility to whomever it may belong, and I conclude this part of my statement by reaffirming with the utmost confidence, and staking my reputation on the statement, that under no circumstances could the saving, which could be effected by taking the composition of the JOURNAL into our own hands, exceed a nominal sum of £200 a-year, without calculating the increased costs, which would result in a loss of from £400 to £600 a-year. It would undoubtedly greatly injure the efficiency of the printing arrangements, as Dr. Henry has pointed out, and as all practical proprietors of journals would recognise.

I pass now to the even more important question of whether it is professionally desirable to take costly premises, including a shop, in the most expensive business thoroughfare in London, and to select premises of such size in that situation as to include suitable meeting-rooms for the Committee of Council and for the Subcommittees of the Association, and waiting-rooms. I leave for the moment altogether Mr. Hutchinson's plan, warmly approved by the leading members of the Association, to whom it has been mentioned both in and out of the Metropolitan Counties Branch. He proposes to establish a writing and reception-room in the professional home of the Association, to which country members and foreign visitors can always come when they have to be in London for a day or two; to which they can have letters and telegrams addressed, and where they can obtain information as to the medical engagements of the week in London. That plan is only now in process of maturing; it was first brought before the Branch last summer, and has not yet been brought into complete shape. I may point out that if the Committee of Council had shown a desirable freedom of statement in the preliminary stages of this matter; if they had in their report to the Association in August last announced that they were contemplating taking a permanent central house or home for the Association, which should comprise its Committee and Council rooms; they would at once have necessarily been fully made aware of all the details of Mr. Hutchinson's scheme, and would probably also have received other suggestions from other quarters fully as worthy of consideration. I very much regret that this preliminary statement of their proposed novel scheme and large expenditure was not made. I think the Committee of Council probably now feel that they would have had everything to gain by taking counsel with the Association at large upon their plans, instead of proceeding to spend the money and carry out quietly their plan, and then to ask for the sanction and approval of the members of the Association at the annual meeting, when everything has been done. But leaving this aside as an extra suggestion, and dealing only with the recognised wants of the Association, I think it is plain upon the face of it, and every one will agree with me that, professionally, the proposed shop in the Strand cannot raise the status of the Association. Our Association has arrived now at a great position. It has now become a recognised factor in influencing Parliament, in the formation of public opinion, and in communicating with functionaries of all kinds, and people of high rank and station both in and out of our profession, on questions affecting all the relations of medical men to the state and to the country. When they are summoned to committees, or when they desire to confer with our committees or with our officers, they will, on this plan, find the British Medical Association treated as a mere appendage of the JOURNAL, and occupying apartments over a shop in the Strand. Supposing that our business interests require a separate printing and publishing establishment of our own, which I am sure they do not, and I hope I have convinced you that they do not, still that might be obtained in an unpretending situation, in the neighbourhood of the ordinary localities of printing and publishing shops, at a modest rental. A dozen such could be found suitable for the purpose, at an hour's notice, at a net rental of a third of what it is proposed to pay for and expend on the premises in the Strand. The balance might very properly be expended in selecting as a professional home of the Association suitable premises such as those of the Medical

Society of London, or a house situated in the centre of a professional neighbourhood, in a quiet street, suitable to the character and to the dignity of the Association. Such houses are to be had at moderate rentals, and both desiderata might be found separately at a less expense than is now proposed to incur for converting an upholsterer's shop in the Strand, which it is intended to make the future home of the British Medical Association, surrounded by shops and eating-houses. If that intention be carried out, we take our rank distinctly as an association of trading doctors. Everyone who comes upon professional business must visit the shop. He must enter by the shop, or alongside of it, through a long dark passage, and he will find somewhere upstairs the professional rooms of the Association. In fact, one of the items on which we are going to spend £1,000 is, I see, entered on the estimate, £100 for a shop-front. Now, a shop-front is all very well in its proper place, and I am the last man to attribute anything less than its proper importance to the value of the JOURNAL as the mainstay of the Association; its great propagandist agent, the great source of its prosperity and of its income. But this is no reason why we should insist on annexing ourselves to a shop. Let each thing have its due proportion. Let the central home of the Association be situated in a quiet neighbourhood, and arranged in a fashion suitable for its purposes of committee-rooms, council-room, and, I hope, reception and reading-rooms. Let me say that this is a subject on which I believe the Committee of Council will find that the members of the Association at large have a very strong feeling. And let me add also that we have an excellent example of dignity and success before us in another similar association, whose instincts might be supposed to be less fastidious in this respect, and who, nevertheless, have known how to combine commercial success with an almost professional dignity in their arrangements. I mean the Pharmaceutical Society. It also has its weekly journal, which is a commercial success. Let me add, by the great openness with which the council of that association report at the fullest possible length their proceedings and even their discussions in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, they offer an excellent example to our Council; but, although a society of keen traders, they have recognised the facts that they can best consult economy by having their journal printed by contract with a professional printer, and their journal is actually printed a very few doors from the house of the present printer of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL. But the central home of the Pharmaceutical Society is a building of which any society may be proud. It is situated in Bloomsbury Square, as most of you know, with a museum and library attached, and, although they are not afraid of the shop, they do not think it necessary, in the semi-professional functions which they exercise, to annex the office of their society to their shop. I commend that example to this meeting. I have taken a great deal of trouble since I was led to consider this subject in investigating all its details. I have endeavoured, without sparing trouble, and as honestly as possible, to look at all sides of the question; and the conclusion to which I have arrived is that contained in the resolution which I now have the honour to submit to you, and which I will again read, in the hope that it will commend itself to your support. If it do not, I shall have no objection to the whole subject being referred to a committee for further information.

Dr. DAY (Stafford) seconded the resolution. He said that it was out of no feeling of disrespect to the Committee of Council that he took this course, for they were a body who had earned the general esteem of members. [Cheers.] His reasons for seconding the motion was that he thought the printing business should not be associated with the offices of the British Medical Association. The social, professional, and scientific character—the original characteristics of the Association—ought to be maintained; and it would be a misfortune, he thought, to have the commercial character imported into it, as it would be by undertaking to print the JOURNAL, and by the Association having a shop. The medical publishers, such as Churchill, did not print their own books, and what these had not thought it advisable to do the Association would not. He objected strongly to the proceedings of the Committee of Council in taking the premises.

Mr. HUSBAND: I now rise—the motion having been seconded—to state, on the part of the Committee of Council, the reasons which have led them to have—not a shop, but offices—offices which are compatible with the dignity and usefulness of the Association. I feel that I have a difficult task in having to answer a long speech read out as Dr. Grigg's has been—rapidly, and with many *ex parte* statements, letters, and such like, which no one else on this side of the table has had an opportunity of weighing. In the year 1871, the Committee of Council found that the Association was not financially prosperous—rather the reverse. Now why was this the case? The Association was not prosperous because its business was carried on in two different places—in Birmingham and in London. We had busi-

ness premises in London without superintendence, and the executive here in Birmingham, and a debt of nearly £2,000. [Hear.] We found that we must change our plan. I hold in my hands a report made at that time—I will read it if you desire it—it was made, after full consideration, by our editor then and our editor now, Mr. Ernest Hart. [Cheers.] Mr. Hart is a practical man—[cheers]—a man who should know something about this business; and Mr. Hart made a carefully considered report to the Committee of Council advising us to undertake the printing of our JOURNAL. Remember what was then our position. We owed our present printer, Mr. Richards, a considerable sum, we were in debt otherwise, our members were considerably fewer, so that our income was very considerably less, and yet Mr. Hart, in his report, contended that if we took upon ourselves the work of printing our paper, purchasing the material with borrowed capital, it would be advantageous to the Association. [Cheers.] We then said, "No, we are not going to do this on borrowed capital; we are going to make a great change, by combining all the business at one centre, by having a managing secretary; and we will see how we get on with this business first before we attempt more". [Cheers.] We made the change, and two or three years ago we found we could not conduct the business we have to do in our present offices, and no one who passes through the gloomy cavern of our present offices can surely say that they are compatible with the "dignity of our profession", as well as with the standing of the Association. [Cheers, and a voice, "Admitted".] Well, then, when we now turn out, as we are obliged to do, we must have new offices to go to; and when this was before us, we naturally took up the consideration of being our own printers; a question pressed upon us by our editor Mr. Hart when we were in difficulties; and we weighed the matter by the light of our position that we were enabled to pay for the outlay—that we have the capital for the plant. [Cheers.] We had and have no personal interest in the matter [cheers], and Mr. Fowke, our able and painstaking secretary, had and has no interest in the matter, beyond the desire to benefit the Association; and we, the Committee of Council and Mr. Fowke, are only taking upon ourselves additional work by our endeavours to advance the interests of the Association. [Cheers.] If we had consulted our interests—our repose—we should have let things go on; but we have always considered the interests of the Association as standing first, and the Committee of Council have often had to come to London upon the business; they have spent their money and they have spent their time, with the single object of the good of the Association. [Cheers.] Now, Dr. Grigg should have known that we have considered all the details he has given us. He has given us Dr. Henry's views; but against Dr. Henry I place Mr. Ernest Hart's report made to us, proposing to extricate ourselves from difficulty by undertaking our own printing. [Cheers.] In Dr. Grigg's view and Dr. Henry's view, we should have two separate establishments, but Mr. Hart advised—and the wisdom of the advice was apparent and obvious—that the whole business of the Association should be done at one establishment; that the presence of the head officer of the Association was to be a source of control; and Mr. Hart's estimate—which can be read if desired—included the rent of rooms for the secretary; and Mr. Hart added that a large part of the advantage of the then proposed new arrangement would be lost if the whole establishment should not be thus combined. Reference has constantly been made to a "shop". Now it is not a "shop" which the Association wants, but offices. We want headquarters where the Committee of the Association can meet, and properly meet; and where the whole business of the Association may be done under one roof. [Hear.] I have here an estimate of other places, which might be had cheaper, it was said, but I defy Dr. Grigg to take whoever he may to these places, and then come to our premises without its being declared that our choice is the best in every respect—in character, in value, and in accommodation. [Cheers.] The architect whom we have consulted, and who has given us his opinion as to other places, says that the position is better, and that there is no comparison as to value against the other places offered. [Hear.] We have investigated the particulars of the other places, and have visited them; but we say that these are not places where the work of the Association could be properly carried on. There has been talk about the "shop", and about the necessity of pursuing science, but you could not have scientific grants with an empty purse; and I should like members who talk about the "scientific purposes" of the Association to give a moment's consideration to the thought of where the money for grants comes from. Unless you have a considerable balance you cannot pursue the "scientific aspects" of the Association. Your expenditure on the JOURNAL is met by your income; but if you had not had a balance, how could you have done what has been done? If you had the accounts before you, as I have them before me, you would be able to see what the Association

has been able to do now by the aid of these despised advertisements in the JOURNAL, raised, too, not by canvassers, but by Mr. Fowke and his clerks. [Cheers.] Mr. Fowke had raised the advertisement receipts to double what they were, and that fact has enabled the Association to give scientific grants, to give an improved JOURNAL, for we have paid double the amount even lately paid to contributors—nearly entirely members of the profession—and to that fact is due our being clear from debt, and to our having a balance to-day. [Cheers.] Now is not this a high position to have achieved? [Cheers.] Dr. Day says, "Let us be a scientific body", but I say we cannot, as an Association, be a scientific body, pure and simple. [Hear.] Our JOURNAL—the most ably conducted of all the medical journals—[cheers]—finds its way to the hardworking general practitioner in a way which no other journal does; and for his fee of a guinea a-year he has his membership of the Association; he has his association with a brotherhood of his profession, and he has that ably conducted JOURNAL week by week. What enables us to place before the hardworking practitioner this JOURNAL, practically for nothing, is the fact that we conduct our business in a right way, and that we have a business. [Cheers.] Now, as to the scheme of some of the London men, with respect to making a "home", as they call it, for the Association, the London men have a club where they can go, so that they should not want a club in the Association. [Cheers.] Well, then, say that you have a room where the members from the country could go, I ask, of what good would that be to men in the country? [Cheers.] When we go to London we do not want to go to reading rooms and read medical works, but to enjoy ourselves or to transact business; and, when we are tired, to go to our lodgings or hotels. [Hear.] It is nice sometimes and cheering to meet medical friends, but, as a rule, you will find that when country people go to London they would prefer to leave the "shop" at home. [Laughter and cheers.] Dr. Grigg's statements have been fairly met, and from the information we have had as to the printing, we can say that Dr. Grigg's calculations are based upon the present number of pages, while, as our editor has been urging us to give him more space, we are desirous to raise the paper to sixty-four pages in place of forty-eight, and if our calculations are correct, and we are as likely to be correct as Dr. Grigg—[cheers]—we shall give you a better journal of sixty-four pages, and we shall put £500 a year in the pockets of the Association. [Cheers.] You must remember that we are obliged to go somewhere else; our offices cannot remain in Great Queen Street; and even if we went into a back street, as recommended to us, we should not save £100 a year upon our present proposal. We have secured a building sufficient for everything; we have carefully gone through the calculations made to us; we have them here, and I would read them to you, but that I am afraid of taking up your time; but there they are (holding papers before the meeting), and I pledge myself that they have been fully, even painfully, considered. Mr. Callender, of London, went through these figures, and he was so satisfied of their correctness that he moved the adoption of the report. [Cheers.] Now this has been done in no hasty manner. It was first of all before the Committee of Council, referred by them to the subcommittee, who carefully considered the matter, and then referred it to the Finance Committee, who also considered it, and referred it to the Committee of Council. Now it would be a most extraordinary thing, if this were a foolish or absurd scheme, that there was not one dissentient voice throughout all these references of all the persons who heard the whole *data*, or that all these several committees should have each passed the matter unanimously. Now the Committee of Council, with a scheme which had passed through these ordeals, felt that they were going to confer a great boon upon the Association, that they were going to give a better journal at a better rate, and to be independent of the printers, and all printers are under certain influences. [Hear.] Dr. Grigg gave us the names of one or two journals printed by printers for their proprietors; but look at the other side of the picture, at the papers which are printed by their proprietors, as the *Church Times*, the *Era*, the *Builder*, the *Lancet*, the *Watchman*, the *Athenaeum*, the *Guardian*, the *Horticultural Journal*, and a whole host of class papers, against his of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*. The number of papers printed at their own offices is enormous. Dr. Grigg has stated that, if we will give the present printer a contract to print for five years he will allow us £200 a year, so that the action of the Committee has resulted in an offer to lessen our payments by £1,000. [Cheers.] But still the printer would expect to make a profit, and would make a profit. [Hear.] We have considered all things, and we have data to go upon that we shall save beyond this promised reduction of £200 a year, and, besides, shall have the advantage of being in our own offices. Every one who has been to see these offices has been struck by their great capabilities, and by the possession of them you will have a building for twenty-one years which will be fully equal to the growing wants

of the Association. [Cheers.] If you do not go there, I do not know where you will go to obtain the like accommodation. I have gone with Mr. Fowke to various places, but I have not seen one building which was at once so suitable for the public business of the Association in relation to the JOURNAL and the executive business of the Association. [Cheers.] I trust you will support men who have painfully, honestly—[cheers]—and carefully weighed this matter. I have no interest but yours in the matter. [Cheers.] I will move as an amendment,

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the arrangements contemplated by the Committee of Council in leasing the premises in the Strand are of a nature to promote the successful conduct of the business of the Association." [Cheers.]

Mr. BAKER seconded the amendment.

Dr. ROGERS said he was in a position to commend and support Dr. Grigg's motion. The Council proposed to save money by combining the two branches of the Association—the printing with the management part. Now, the question was, would this be the case, would money be saved? That certain economy had been effected in what the Council had done by having one place, he was ready to admit. [Hear, hear.] But that was not the point, nor was that the case as now put, for it was said that £800 a-year would be saved on an expenditure of £1,900—a ludicrous statement. The Committee of Council proposed to set up as printers; and Dr. Grigg appealed to practical printers to give him advice; and he showed that, instead of a saving of £900 a-year, there would be a loss of £300. The Committee of Council looked to an increase of advertisements by taking a shop. ["Office."] They might call it what they pleased; but, when they proposed to spend £100 to put in a plate-glass front, he called it a "shop". Now, the advertising power of the JOURNAL was in its circulation, and not in the position of its offices. The fact was, that the Committee of Council were going into business. [One of the Committee of Council: "We have been in business for a long time".] Mr. Cobden once mentioned to him that he had great respect for the medical profession, as the members of it understood something of their calling; "but", Mr. Cobden added, "I hardly know one who knows anything else". ["Question?"] That was a fair observation directed against the Committee of Council being the men to go into business. Dr. Rogers concluded by urging the members to look before they leaped.

Dr. B. FOSTER said that no doubt Dr. Rogers's acquaintance with the late Mr. Cobden was one of the great privileges of his life, and that he could calmly suffer with others in the depreciation in which the statesman held the business habits of the medical profession. [A laugh.] But what was Mr. Cobden's testimony and opinion, by the side of the fact that in a few years the present Committee of Council had been able to raise the Association to its present position of a powerful organisation—a position of dignity—and to save several thousand pounds—this, too, without acting in a commercial spirit, but after giving several thousand pounds to scientific purposes; and it was a proof of the business qualities of the Committee of Council that they had effected savings on all the changes they had made, so that the reflection upon the business qualities of the profession, based upon the words of the late Mr. Cobden, fell to the ground. [Cheers.] The Association had been advised to look before it made its leap; but he could assure the Association that the Committee of Council had taken a long and deliberate look before they leaped, and had well measured the distance, so that they felt they should safely land on the other side. [Cheers.] The statements—not controverted—as to the savings which the Committee of Council had been enabled to make in the working of the Association, had been the result of deliberate consideration and thought, and the experience gained it was intended to apply to the Association in future. [Cheers.] Let the members weigh the facts of the savings effected by the Committee of Council as so much testimony in favour of the views they now held in regard to their new action. [Hear.] In undertaking this greater responsibility, they were doing extraordinary service for the Association; and he desired the Association to bear in mind this fact: that the JOURNAL required to be more brought before the public; for its advertisement income at the present time bore no proportion to what it ought to be, considering its great, certain, and increasing circulation as the organ of a great and increasing Association. [Cheers.] Other journals of smaller circulation and less influence had larger advertising incomes; and the Committee of Council were taking the best steps to place the JOURNAL on a proper footing in this respect. [Cheers.] The Committee of Council were taking steps to do this; and, when it was done, they would give their best thoughts and attention to provide a "home" in London asked for by the London men, and he had no doubt that the medical club would give Dr. Grigg and every friend of Dr. Grigg a hearty welcome. [Laughter and cheers.]

Dr. HENRY said that there could be no doubt that every one in the room desired the prosperity of the Association; and each side could give the other full credit for that feeling. He must protest against the insinuation conveyed in certain expressions used by Dr. Foster and other speakers, that the metropolitan members desired special advantages for themselves. In all that they had proposed with reference to the subject under discussion, the members in London had consulted for the benefit and convenience of the country members of the Association. He quite agreed with those who desired that the Association should have a house worthy of the high position to which it had attained; but he hesitated to go with the Committee of Council in their proposal to undertake the printing of the JOURNAL. He had already expressed his views on the subject in a letter to the President of Council; pointing out especially, among other matters, certain difficulties that would probably arise in regard to having a sufficient staff of compositors and keeping them fully employed. The views which he held were in substance the same as those put forth by Dr. Grigg.

Dr. GRIGG having briefly replied,

The PRESIDENT put the amendment to the vote; and a large majority voted in favour of it, seven or eight only being against it.

It was then put as a substantive resolution, and carried, with five against.

THE PRIVILEGES OF LADY MEMBERS.

The PRESIDENT stated that this subject would be deferred until the annual meeting, as the gentleman who had intended to move a resolution on the subject was unable to be present.

Mr. OLIVER PEMBERTON moved:

"That a Subcommittee be appointed to inquire as to the privilege of lady members, with power to take counsel's opinion, and to report to the annual meeting."

Mr. LISTER thought it would conduce very much to the interests of the Association if some steps were taken in the interval between this time and the annual meeting with regard to this subject; and he seconded the motion.

Mr. GAMGEE moved as an amendment:

"That the Committee of Council be instructed to take the opinion of counsel as to the rights of the lady members, and to report to the annual meeting."

Mr. SOLOMON seconded the amendment.

Dr. WADE, Dr. EASTWOOD, Dr. BORCHARDT, Mr. LAWSON TAIT, and others spoke; and ultimately a division was taken, when there appeared: For the amendment, 40; against, 38.

It was moved by Mr. SAMPSON GAMGEE, seconded by Mr. HUSBAND, and resolved unanimously:

"That the best thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. Eason Wilkinson for his conduct in the chair."

The meeting then separated.

THE EXISTING STATE OF OUR NAVAL, INDIAN, AND ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES.

ON Monday, the 1st instant, the thirty-sixth session of the Army Medical School was opened at Netley with nineteen candidates for the British army, twenty-six for Her Majesty's Indian service, and eleven for the Royal Navy. There was a large attendance of officers and gentlemen from the neighbourhood, including Major-General Bayley, C.B., R.E.; Inspector-General Domville, C.B., R.N., Principal Medical Officer of Haslar Hospital; Colonels Stewart and Farmer, Major Bullen, R.E., and others. The Introductory Address was delivered by Surgeon-General Longmore, C.B., Professor of Military Surgery. The lecturer gave a hearty welcome to the new-comers, and assured them all the authorities at Netley were anxious that the time of their stay should be agreeably as well as profitably spent, and, with much feeling and eloquence, exhorted them to turn to the best account the means of improvement placed at their disposal. He made some highly important remarks on each of the three branches of the public service, especially with regard to the Army Medical Department, in respect to its condition for entering upon a campaign if required to do so. These remarks have been forwarded to us; and as the subject is one which has excited a good deal of attention of late, and is still doing so, we at once lay the substance of them before our readers.

The several branches of the public service in which you are destined

to apply your professional knowledge offer, each of them, a noble field for your exertions. Each branch has its special features, its special advantages; and, as there is no sphere in life in which unmixed good is to be found, I may in fairness probably add, each has its special drawbacks. In all, however, to those who are disposed and competent to turn the opportunities they offer to good account, the advantages very far outweigh the drawbacks.

In the Royal Navy, the rank and position of the medical officers, the rates of pay, and the retiring pensions have been greatly improved of late years, while personal economy can be practised in it with less self-denial than in other branches of the public service. If serving on shipboard, you may be sure, if your professional attainments are such as to command respect, and you have a disposition open to be pleased, that you will meet with no want of pleasant companions; nor, in whatever part of the world you may be stationed, can you ever be without abundant means of enlarging your views and extending your knowledge in those natural sciences which have formed part of your education, and which are so full of interest to all of us. To some persons a sea-life is distasteful, especially to those who have not become used to it in early life; and this, no doubt, is one fruitful cause, joined with the demand for medical practitioners in other directions, why more candidates do not come forward for this branch of the service; but it is not to be forgotten, in these days of steam, that ships do not remain at sea for long periods as in former years, and that medical officers of the Navy, in the course of their service, spend much of their time in hospital establishments on shore.

The Indian Medical Service offers a magnificent field for the surgeon who is fond of his profession and ambitious of gaining distinction in it, whether in its technical, tutorial, or administrative aspects. I speak not only of the higher positions that become open to you in time—such as appointments in the great medical colleges of Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Lahore, and Hyderabad, though not a few of the professorships in these are now held by medical officers who, comparatively a few years ago, sat on the very benches you now occupy, as well as other important charges in the Presidency cities and larger stations—but I refer to the positions in which relatively juniors are placed. Even in what may be regarded as out-of-the-way and minor stations, large professional practice and distinction may be gained in India. But certain qualities must be displayed in order to secure these results. The apathetic or the unskilful surgeon will not obtain them. There must be the desire for the practice in the first instance; cases must be almost sought for at first; in the next place, confidence must be gained by the exercise of ability and skill; and then opportunities of practice will follow of their own accord. About three weeks ago, I received a printed report of the work done in 1877 at a small dispensary at Azamgarh by Mr. R. C. Sanders, who passed through this school with much credit about seven years ago. Between the 1st of January and the 26th of December last year, Mr. Sanders performed 831 surgical operations. They were followed by only 5 deaths, but 15 of the cases were still under treatment at the time the report was closed. Among them were no fewer than 523 operations for extraction of cataract, and 197 cases of iridectomy. Imagine upwards of 500 cases of cataract extraction in one year; what would the most eminent practitioner in ophthalmic surgery in our great metropolis say to such a number coming under his care in that time? And conceive the gratification to all concerned in the results: 336 with sight successfully restored, and 95 relieved, out of the number! Each successful case increased tenfold the advent of blind people from the surrounding villages. After referring to the number of applications in the month of July, the report states: "At the beginning of the year, the difficulty was to get the patients to submit to operation; now the difficulty is to keep them off the operating-table." In a letter dated February 28th of this year, written from Moradabad, in Rohilund, Mr. Sanders asks that the amount of his practice at Azamgarh in 1877 may be mentioned to you at the beginning of the session, and I have accordingly done so; and he adds: "The field for work in this country is boundless. I have but just been transferred to this station, and have, in the first month had over 180 cases to treat, mostly cases of cataract." Any one may well be proud to belong to a service in which such opportunities of professional usefulness are to be obtained.

The medical department of the British army is also a service in which not only great opportunities of usefulness, but also many sources of gratification, are open to all who join its ranks. You may justly feel a patriotic pride in belonging to it. Its efficiency has been so persistently decried for some time past in a certain portion of the press, so much obloquy has been cast upon the officers at the head of it, that a feeling of uncertainty and distrust in regard to it has been propagated far and wide among those who have no personal acquaintance with it. It seems not improbable that these constant attacks have, in some degree,

effected the harm which they appear to have been designed to accomplish; and that they have kept many young surgeons of promising ability from seeking commissions in it. You who have had the courage to come forward, in spite of these deterring influences, are not likely to regret the step you have taken. You will find honourable employment, with remuneration above the average of what is obtained in early years in civil practice, and at the same time free from most of the difficulties and anxieties inseparable from it. You will be associated with an army which, though inferior in numbers to many others, has no superior in patriotism and fame; and that has the merit of never being employed as an instrument of aggression and injustice. A distinguished general officer, Sir Garnet Wolseley, has recently published a comparison between the state of the British army, in strength and organisation at the present time, and its state at the time of the Crimean war. He has shown the improvements which have been made in it, and how much more competent it is now to take the field, and to maintain a struggle, if called upon to do so, than it was then. It would be easy, if time allowed, to show that, what is true of the army as a whole, is equally true of the medical part of it. I will only mention a few of the most striking facts in this respect. At the time of the Crimean war, we had not even the vestige of an hospital corps. The ordinary plan for meeting the want of hospital orderlies was by abstracting effective soldiers from the ranks of regiments; and when, during the war, attempts were made to form an independent hospital corps—composed as it was at first of worn-out pensioners, and afterwards of untrained civilians—the efforts only ended in failure. Now we have a regularly trained and disciplined Army Hospital Corps, of considerable numerical strength. We had no organised system for the removal of the wounded; no trained stretcher-bearers, nor establishment for training them; no equipment nor organisation for forming dressing-stations in advance of the field-hospitals; and no fixed arrangements for the field-hospitals themselves. The bandsmen were supposed to be available for carrying the wounded away, but it was a mere supposition; they were neither taught the duty, nor were there any existing orders or means for making them do it; and, practically, when the wounded were removed, they were carried off the field by their comrades—a most objectionable proceeding. Now, we have systematically organised and trained "Bearer Companies", complete in their essentials of *matériel* and *personnel* for all the duties between the fighting lines and the field-hospitals, including those of transport as well as those of the dressing-stations. The field-hospital establishments are complete, and adapted to the exigencies of modern warfare. At the time of the Crimean war, the troops marched and fought the battle of the Alma without a single ambulance-wagon with the army; the only one that was landed was left, where I saw it, on the shore at the place of debarkation; and when, at a subsequent period, some ambulance-wagons were brought to the army before Sebastopol, they were so cumbersome, there were such difficulties in moving them, that they were abandoned as useless. Now, not only are there large stores of ambulance-wagons and other conveyances for sick and wounded soldiers available, but there is every reason for believing that there are none so perfect for their particular purposes, certainly none more so, in any army in Europe. Some British ambulance-wagons were sent to France during the war of 1870-71; one detachment of them was employed with the French, another with German troops. One of the English medical officers with the latter afterwards published the fact that, when the German surgeons wished special cases of wounds to be removed, they requested the use of the British ambulance-wagons in preference to their own—a sufficient proof of their ease of carriage: and when, after going through the trying work of the hard winter in France, they were brought back to Woolwich, all the essential parts of the vehicles were found to be as perfect as when they left it—a sufficient proof of the excellence of their construction; and there have been many improvements made in them, as well as in the other classes of ambulance conveyances, since that time. In short, in all respects—in organisation, in quality of equipment, and now, I believe, in the amount of it—if a British army be called upon to enter on active service, there is every reason for believing the medical department will be found far better adapted to meet the demands which will be made upon it, great as they now are in warfare, than it has ever been at any previous time. The majority of the medical officers, too, will be found better prepared than they had the opportunity of becoming formerly. The instruction at this school, supplemented by the Bearer-column drill at the dépôt at Aldershot, must produce this result. Sir Garnet Wolseley, in his paper before alluded to, has recalled to recollection the reply of the War Minister to a Member of the House of Commons, who brought the want of ambulance conveyances in the Crimea, during the early part of the first winter, to the notice of Parliament. The Minister asserted that the reports on the subject were devoid of truth, because he knew for a fact that there were fully a hundred hospital panniers with the army. These

are articles which have not the remotest relation to ambulance conveyances. But it can scarcely excite wonder that the Minister did not know what field-hospital panniers were, since many of the army surgeons had no idea of their nature when they first started on the expedition. How could they? They had never had occasion for their use, and the panniers had never been shown to them. Such ignorance cannot occur again. I do not mean to say there are no matters connected with the department which one could wish to be different from what they are; but there is good reason for believing that whatever defects exist of importance will be rectified before long, and, at any rate, this is not the place to discuss them. It is with regard to the efficiency of the department, which has been so much derided in certain quarters of late, that I have been led to speak; and I hope I have been able to show there is not the slightest ground for the injurious attempts which have been made to disparage it in this direction.

In conclusion, let me recommend you who have just come to Netley to make yourselves acquainted with the character of our lost colleague Dr. Parkes, whose portrait has just been placed in the map-room, and with whose fame you must be more or less familiar. As a likeness, the picture is so admirably true that, looking at it, you will see what manner of man he was while in life; but, to know how he lived and how he worked, you must look elsewhere. You will not fail to see important evidence of his great industry, his earnestness in the search after scientific truth, and of his perfect freedom from prejudice in the valuable work on practical hygiene, which will be constantly in your hands as a text-book while you are here. You will be able to learn further from any of the memoirs which have been published of him, how unselfish he was in his aims, how resolutely and indefatigably he worked for the good of humanity at large, but especially for the welfare of the officers and soldiers of the army; and what great improvements he effected, without taking credit to himself for them, and certainly with remarkably few signs of gratitude or appreciation from those who received most advantage from them. The medical officers of the United Services, however, have not been forgetful of the benefits he conferred on them by his teaching and published works, nor the position he achieved—to use one designation given to him—of "the leading hygienist in the most hygienic nation in the world"; but, in concert with a few personal friends, they have testified to their appreciation of them by subscribing enough to found the "Parkes Memorial Prize", a gold medal, and £100, to be given triennially for the best essay on Hygiene; further, to obtain the memorial portrait just placed in the officers' mess-room: still further, I am happy to add, to establish a Parkes Medal, for the candidate who sessionally exhibits the highest attainments in the hygienic work which he so long directed at this school.

Only try to imitate him in his beneficent aims, and in his honest and loyal efforts to fulfil all his duties to the best of his ability, and you may be sure that you will not only satisfy those with whom you have to deal in the business of life, but you will enjoy what is still more important, that self-satisfaction, which will be a source of happiness to you under every condition in which you may happen to be placed, as long as life itself lasts.

THE HARVEY TERCENTENARY MEMORIAL FUND.

WITH great satisfaction we recognise the extent to which the Harvey Memorial project has been noticed by the general press. All the London daily journals referred to the occurrence of the three hundredth anniversary of the birth of Harvey on Monday last; they spoke of his beneficent labours in terms of grateful admiration, and called attention to the memorial-statue about to be erected at Folkestone. There also appears in most of the papers of to-day (Thursday) an appeal to the general public for £500 or £600 more, signed by the members of the London Executive Committee of the fund. The actual centenary was commemorated at Folkestone, at which the Rev. R. C. Jenkins, Honorary Canon of Canterbury, gave a lecture on "Harvey, and his Position as a Discoverer". There was a large audience, from which subscriptions to the Memorial Fund to the extent of about thirty guineas was obtained. Other subscriptions promised to or received by the London Honorary Secretary during the last fortnight amount to £130.

At the meeting of the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, held on Tuesday last, the subject was introduced, and notice was given by the Senior Censor of a motion to be brought forward at the next meeting of the Fellows, that the College, recognising how much it is indebted to Harvey, should subscribe one hundred guineas to the Memorial Fund. The Council of the Obstetrical Society, at their meeting on Wednesday, also passed a resolution recommending the

next meeting of the Council to make a donation of 25 guineas. The subscriptions, exclusive of these sums, now amount to £1,100. We are requested to ask the members of the profession who have not hitherto contributed to this most interesting object to kindly send their donations at once to either of the hon. treasurers (Sir George Burrows, Bart., or Mr. Prescott Hewett), or to either of the Hon. Secretaries (Mr. George Eastes, M.B., 69, Connaught Street, Hyde Park Square, London, W.; or Mr. W. G. S. Harrison, B.A., Town Clerk, Folkestone), or to pay them into the account of the Harvey Tercentenary Memorial Fund, at the Western Branch of the Bank of England, Burlington Gardens, London, W. Subscriptions from five shillings upwards will be very acceptable. Success is insured, if that feeling which should exist in regard to this subject should lead to practical action generally on the part of the members of our profession.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

AN extraordinary meeting of the College was held on April 2nd. Permission was given to Dr. Willis to publish in his life of Harvey a letter in the possession of the College written by Dr. Harvey to Dr. Baldwin Harney.

A communication was read from the Secretaries of the "Harvey Tercentenary Memorial Fund" soliciting the co-operation and assistance of the College in providing funds for a proposed statue to Harvey.

Dr. Quain gave notice of his intention to move at the next meeting a grant from the College fund for this purpose. Dr. Quain also gave notice that he would propose that a banquet should be given by the College.

The Bill introduced by the Lord President to amend the Medical Act was then considered, and the following resolution was adopted:

"That a deputation, consisting of the President of the College and the Fellows to be nominated by him, be authorised to wait on the Lord President of the Council to point out the objectionable features contained in the Bill which his Grace has introduced into the House of Lords, to seek modifications of the same, and to report to the College."

THE MEDICAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THE Medical Reform Committee met on Tuesday, at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, when the following members were present: Dr. Edward Waters, Chairman and Convener; Dr. Wilkinson, President of the Association; Dr. Falconer, President of the Council; Dr. Chadwick, Vice-President; Dr. De Bartolomé, Vice-President; Dr. Wade, Birmingham; Dr. Balhazar Foster, Birmingham.

The action of the Committee, and its communications with the Government and with Members of Parliament, were considered, and the Bill of the Government to amend the Medical Act, 1858, was condemned—

1. For not providing for direct representation of the profession in the General Medical Council;
2. For not containing compulsory enactments, to enforce the formation of a conjoint board of examination in each division of the kingdom, on the principle of equal fees and equal examination.

It was resolved: That the Chairman should, by a communication to every member of the Association, and, as far as practicable, of the profession, endeavour to obtain an expression of his adhesion to the principles which the Association has so long struggled to realise.

FORM OF PETITION.

The following form of petition was suggested. It must be *written* and not printed.

Unto the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the undersigned, registered medical practitioners, residing in _____ and its neighbourhood, sheweth—

That a Bill, intitled an Act to Amend the Medical Act, 1858, has been brought into your Honourable House.

That, in that Bill, no provision is made for the introduction of direct representatives of the profession in the General Medical Council.

That the General Medical Council, as now constituted, consists of seventeen representatives of the Universities and Corporations, and of six members nominated by the Crown, together with a President, chosen by the other members of the Council.

That the representatives of the Universities and Corporations have exclusive interests to watch over, and exercise an overwhelming influence in the Council.

That the general expenses of the Medical Council are defrayed out of fees exacted from the members of the profession, and that the Universities and Corporations do not contribute to the payment of those who represent them in it.

That the medical profession, as a body distinct from the Universities and Corporations, is wholly unrepresented in the General Medical Council.

That the Bill does not provide compulsory enactments for the establishment of a conjoint board, for the examination of medical candidates in each division of the kingdom, on the principle of equal fees and equal examinations; and that such enactments are indispensable, in the interests of the public, to abolish the competition downwards in the granting of medical licenses and diplomas.

Your petitioners pray your Honourable House not to pass that, or any other Bill, unless provision be therein made for direct representation of the profession in the General Medical Council, and for the compulsory establishment of conjoint boards of examination, on the principle of equal fees and equal examinations in each division of the kingdom.

And your petitioners will ever pray, etc.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, on Wednesday, the 17th day of April next, at Two o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE,

General Secretary.

36, Great Queen Street, London, W.C., March 25th, 1878.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

THE spring meeting of this Branch will be held at the Railway Hotel, Taunton, on Thursday, April 11th, at 5 P.M.

The following question has been settled by the Council as the one on which members should be invited to express their opinion at the said meeting after dinner:—"Is the Use of Water desirable in Dressing Wounds?"

The Secretary requests that early notice be sent to him of the title of any communication intended to be brought forward at the meeting.

W. M. KELLY, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

Taunton, March 16th, 1878.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.

THE spring meeting of this Branch will be held in the Board Room of the Guardians, at Hexham, on Thursday, April 25th, at 2 o'clock P.M.

The following papers, etc., have been promised.

1. Drs. Stainthorpe and Farmer: Case of Aortic Aneurism in a boy aged 13.
 2. Drs. Stainthorpe and Farmer: Case of Contracted Knee-Joint, recently operated on by division of the Tendons and Forcible Extension.
 3. Dr. Byrom Bramwell: On the Differential Diagnosis of Aortic Aneurisms and other Intrathoracic Tumours, with cases and specimens.
 4. Dr. E. C. Anderson: On Leucine and Tyrosine, and their Diagnostic Value in Disease, with cases.
 5. Dr. James Murphy: Exhibition of Tarnier's Obstetric Forceps.
 6. Dr. James Murphy: On Puerperal Convulsions.
 7. Dr. Philipson: Notes of a Case of Hæmaturia.
- Dinner at the White Hart Hotel at 4.30 P.M.; charge six shillings, exclusive of wine.

G. H. PHILIPSON, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, April 2nd, 1878.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE fifth ordinary meeting of the Session will be held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday, April 25th, at 7.15 P.M.; HENRY MARSHALL, M.D., President.

R. S. FOWLER, } *Honorary Secretaries.*
E. C. BOARD, }

Bath, April 1st, 1878.

time and an inquiry held into the administration of the law, as such an investigation would be of great value, not only in satisfying the public mind as to the efficacy of vaccination, but as to the manner in which it was performed; while suggestions as to its improvement could be considered.—Lord R. CHURCHILL then moved the rejection of the Bill, and this afforded several hon. gentlemen who had already addressed the House an opportunity to speak again. In course of the discussion, Dr. PLAYFAIR characterised the Bill as seeking to legalise the sale of an 'indulgence for a breach of the law, the principle being just the same as if a person were allowed to convey some one suffering from an infectious disease in a cab a second but not a first time.—Mr. SCLATER-BOOTH said he could not support the Bill, neither could he feel justified in throwing any obstacles in the way of the second reading, and therefore he left the question to the House.—Mr. W. E. FORSTER said the Government could not leave the question as it stood, but would be bound, sooner or later, to refer it to a committee. On a division, the Bill was rejected by 271 to 82 votes.

OBITUARY.

JOHN ROBERTS, M.D., M.R.C.P.L.

It is our painful duty to record the sudden death, at the age of sixty-eight, of John Roberts, M.D., M.R.C.P.L., on the 23rd ult., at Nice. Dr. Roberts practised for some years in Paris with success. In 1849 he settled in London, and soon became a popular physician at the West End, with a large and influential *clientèle*. Six or seven years since, illness obliged him to resign the active duties of his profession, and he retired into private life at Upper Norwood, usually wintering at Nice, where he died. By his patients he was beloved for his skill and kindness, by his colleagues he was trusted and esteemed for his high moral and professional qualities.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen passed their primary examinations in anatomy and physiology at a meeting of the Board of Examiners, on April 1st; and, when eligible, will be admitted to the pass-examination.

Messrs. T. Kay Whitehead, William Stanwell, and R. Hanson Wolstenholme, students of the Manchester School of Medicine; Robert Jones, George F. Barnes, and G. Treverno Hockin, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; W. Eckett Fielden, G. Ryding Marsh, and W. Washington David, of Guy's Hospital; F. William Marland and G. Mills Wasse, of St. Thomas's Hospital; George Welch and Arthur Northcott, of University College; W. Aloysius Day and T. A. Perry Marsh, of the Bristol Medical School; John Palmer, of the Middlesex Hospital; George Annand, of the Melbourne Hospital; David Lowson, of the Aberdeen School; Frederick J. Laimbers, of the Liverpool School; and Ewing McG. Aitken, of the Glasgow School.

The following gentlemen passed on April 2nd.

Messrs. Sinclair Westcott, E. J. Erskine Risk, Donald D. Day, Joseph Armitage, C. H. Bedwell Shears, and Robert S. Batson, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Albert Wheeler, Walter Atterbury, and Ernest E. King, of the Middlesex Hospital; Richard Rice and Arthur Hooley, of the Charing Cross Hospital; Arthur H. Proffitt and Richard Vivian, of St. Mary's Hospital; Edward Cotterell, of University College; John W. Batterham, of the Westminster Hospital; H. Pearson Gilbert, of St. Thomas's Hospital; Jonathan Hutchinson, of the London Hospital; Frederick J. Driver, of the Cambridge School; and James M. Chadwick, of the Manchester School.

The following gentlemen passed on April 3rd.

Messrs. Charles P. Lukis, Alexander Haigh, and John H. Stewart, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Robert H. Firth, Alexander B. Voisin, and Charles D'A. Collings, of University College; Frank H. Shaw, Benjamin E. Studor, and William W. Pryn, of Guy's Hospital; William A. Duncan and Newton Bentham, of St. Thomas's Hospital; Henry F. Corbould and James Thurton, of the Charing Cross Hospital; Henry J. Minchinton and Thomas W. Scale, of the Middlesex Hospital; Ronald Volckman and Lloyd Francis, of the London Hospital; Herbert F. Parsons and Joseph Tucker, of St. Mary's Hospital; John H. Oates and Joseph Thirkill, of the Leeds School; Charles J. Mouncey, of the Manchester School; and Ernest H. Wagstaff, of King's College.

Nine candidates out of the seventy-two examined, having failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Board, were referred to their anatomical and physiological studies for three months.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, March 28th, 1878.

Bell, William Montague, 362, Camden Road, N.W.
Fraser, Græme Bisdée, St. Mary's Hospital
Good, Frederick Thomas, 91, Highbury Hill, N.
Gover, Henry John, Clapham, S.W.
Hawks, Robert Shafto, Hertford
Skelding, Henry John, Bayswater
Walter, William Henry, Sydenham

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:—

- ALICE DALE INFIRMARY, Cape Colony—Obstetric Physician. Salary, £500 per annum, with house, servants, and horse. Applications to be made on or before May 1st to the Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospital, with copies of Diplomas.
- ATHY UNION—Medical Officer of Athy Dispensary District. Salary, £130 per annum, and £13 as Sanitary Officer, together with Registration and Vaccination Fees. Applications to the 9th instant.
- ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE DISTRICT INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications to be made on or before the 17th instant.
- BOURNEMOUTH GENERAL DISPENSARY and COTTAGE HOSPITAL—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £120 per annum, with rooms, coals, gas, and attendance. Applications to be made on or before the 18th instant.
- BRISTOL GENERAL HOSPITAL. Physician's Assistant. Salary, £50 per annum. Applications on or before the 19th instant.
- EASTERN DISPENSARY OF BATH—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £200 per annum, with furnished apartments, coals, gas, and servants. Applications to be made on or before the 16th instant.
- EAST LONDON HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN and DISPENSARY FOR WOMEN—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £60 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 11th instant.
- ENNIS DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM—Resident Pupils. Applicants must be qualified as Physician and Surgeon, and not above thirty years of age. Salary, not less than £50, or more than £60 per annum, with apartments and rations.
- GERMAN HOSPITAL, Dalston—Honorary Assistant-Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before May 1st.
- INGHAM INFIRMARY and SOUTH SHIELDS' and WESTOE DISPENSARY—Senior House-Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before the 8th instant.
- LEEDS PUBLIC DISPENSARY—Junior Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £80 per annum, with board and residence. Applications to be made on or before the 10th instant.
- NARBERTH UNION—Medical Officer for No. 4 District. Salary, £35 per annum, and fees, with £10 as Medical Officer of Health.
- QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, Birmingham—Honorary Physician. Applications to be made on or before the 13th instant.
- ROSCOMMON INFIRMARY—Resident Apothecary and Registrar. Salary, £60 a year, apartment, rations, fuel; or a Non-resident Apothecary to compound the medicines at £30 a year; and a Registrar at £30 yearly. Applications to the 17th instant.
- ROYAL CORNWALL INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon, Secretary, and Dispenser. Salary, £200 per annum, with furnished rooms, coals, gas, and attendance. Applications to be made on or before the 24th instant.
- ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, Paddington.—Pathologist and Medical Tutor. Applications to be made on or before the 8th instant.
- ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL—Ophthalmic Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before the 6th instant.
- WARNEFORD, LEAMINGTON, and SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 16th instant.
- YORK DISPENSARY—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £130 per annum, with furnished apartments, coals, and gas. Applications to be made on or before April 18th.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

- BROWN, W. H., M.R.C.S. Eng. (late Assistant House-Surgeon to the Leeds General Infirmary), appointed House-Surgeon to the West London Hospital.
- CRESSEY, G. H., M.R.C.S. E., appointed Medical Resident and Secretary to the General Infirmary, Hertford, vice *W. Odell, F.R.C.S. Eng., resigned.
- WICKS, W. Cairns, M.B., appointed Physician to the Hospital for Sick Children, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

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.

FLEMING—WALLS.—At 2, Belhaven Terrace, Glasgow, on the 2nd instant, by the Rev. T. Dobbie, William James Fleming, M.B., F.F.P.S., Lecturer on Physiology, Glasgow Royal Infirmary School of Medicine, to Annie Cole, eldest daughter of William Walls, Esq.

VACCINATION.—Mr. Daniel Gibson, Public Vaccinator for the West District of the Hull Incorporation, has received an award of £69 : 14 from the Local Government Board for efficient vaccination in his district, this being the second consecutive grant that gentleman has received.

ADDRESS TO MR. G. WYNDHAM MURPHY.—An influential meeting was recently held in the Court House, Ramelton, for the purpose of presenting an address to this gentleman, who has resigned the office of medical officer to the Ramelton Dispensary District. The address, which was in book form and highly decorated, was signed by the magistrates, clergy, and leading inhabitants of the district, and was presented by his numerous friends, who wished to place on record the estimate they had formed of his professional character and personal worth.

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.
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, 2 P.M.
FRIDAY	Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Royal South London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Guy's, 1.30 P.M.
SATURDAY....	St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1 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 P.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.	Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. William Rose will exhibit a Child from whom he has removed the Half of the Lower Jaw; Mr. Fisher will show Two Cases of Congenital Talipes; Dr. Sansom, "Note on some common Disorders of Children".
TUESDAY.	Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. 8 P.M.: Ballot. 8.30 P.M.: Dr. Southey, "On some points in the Minute Anatomy of the Kidney which have important bearings on its Physiological Functions in Health and Disease"; Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, "On Paralysis of the Internal Muscles of the Eye, a group of symptoms which usually indicate Diseases of the Lenticular Ganglion".
WEDNESDAY.	Epidemiological Society, 8.30 P.M. The President, "On the Plague and Typhus Fever in India".—Hunterian Society, 7.30 P.M.: Council Meeting. 8 P.M.: Mr. Davies-Colley, "On a Rheumatoid Affection of Joints in Women"; Dr. Galabin, "On the Treatment of Prolapsed Uteri".
FRIDAY.	Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Nunn, 1. "Electrolytic Treatment of Epulis"; 2. "Plantar Bunions". Dr. Semon, "Bilateral Paralysis of the Crico-arytenoid Pости Muscles" (living specimen); 3. Dr. Barlow and Mr. Marsh, "Case of Ovariectomy in a Child Twelve Years old"; 4. Mr. Barker, "Wound of an Abnormal Obturator Artery in an operation for Femoral Hernia".

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered, are requested to look to the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

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

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*.

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.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

TURPENTINE IN POST PARTUM HÆMORRHAGE.

SIR,—Having a severe case of *post partum* hæmorrhage the other day in a flabby and hydramic class of patient, I determined to try the turpentine remedy as a stimulant to the uterus. I administered two drachms beaten up with an egg, and two drachms of brandy. This I repeated in the course of twenty minutes, after which the desired effect was obtained. The nauseating mixture, I think, might be improved upon by the turpentine being enclosed in capsules, which are easily and quickly dissolved in the stomach, similar to the balsam of copaiba, capsules.—I remain, yours faithfully,
Hull, March 26th, 1878. F. J. SAWDON, M.B., etc.

WILL some of your correspondents kindly inform me the mode of manufacture of carbon plates for galvanic battery?
ELECTRON.

PLUGGING THE NARES.

SIR,—I wish to inform Mr. T. T. Frankland, through the medium of your *JOURNAL*, that I have very frequently used an ordinary gum elastic catheter, threaded by means of the stylet—in fact, I keep all my used-up catheters for this purpose—but I fail to recognise the utility of two catheters, as, if the plug for the posterior nares be of sufficient or rather proper size, it will block up the passage sufficiently.—I am, etc.,
Elton, March 25th, 1878. FRANK DAVISON.

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 BARBER FUND.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the following additional contributions to this fund; and, in thanking those of my professional brethren who have so kindly responded to my appeal, permit me again to remind the profession generally that the case is an urgent one, and that further subscriptions are yet needed.

Verax	£1	1	0
Dr. Carstairs, Peel, Isle of Man 0 10 0
Dr. Bull, Hereford 2 2 0
I am, sir, your obedient servant,			
Latham House, Crickhowell, April 2nd, 1878.			

P.S.—Perhaps I ought to add, that the subscriptions up to this date amount to £25 3s.

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers inform me of any schools where boys are specially and successfully prepared for matriculation at the University of London? March 28th, 1878. PARENT.

REMOVAL OF FOREIGN BODIES FROM THE AUDITORY CANAL.

SIR,—It seems to me that Dr. Grey, in the heat and hurry of writing the letter, which appears in the *JOURNAL* of this date from him, has overlooked the fact that a method can be "described" without entering into the details of the mode in which it is carried out; but as he may not be able to see how this is possible in the present instance, I shall try to show him how I have accomplished it.

In calling the method of Löwenberg the "agglutinative" method of removing foreign bodies from the ear, I claim to have "described" that method—briefly, it is true, but, withal, lucidly and literally, for the following reasons. The word "agglutinative", which I have chosen, not only denotes the method itself, but it connotes or indicates its attribute or quality, which is to cause one substance to adhere to another by means of glue. In fact, the word "agglutinate" very accurately defines this method; and as one of the meanings of the term, "to define", is "to describe accurately", I hope that I have not only shown Dr. Grey how I lay claim to have "described" the method of Dr. Löwenberg, but, at the same time, to have justified myself in doing so in the eyes of your readers, to whom Dr. Grey appeals.

If Dr. Grey went to my paper, as he seems to have done, in the expectation of finding a detailed description of the mode of procedure of the method of Löwenberg, I surely cannot be held responsible for such an expectation on his part, seeing that I only affirmed, what I have just proved, that I had "described" the method. I never spoke of describing the *proceeding* at all—not even in my paper, from which he quotes; on the contrary, in it I distinctly state that the object of the paper "is not to enter into the details of the various methods in use for the removal of foreign bodies from the ear". Finally, as the paper referred to—"On the presence of Foreign Bodies in the Meatus and on their Removal" (*BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, December 26th, 1874)—was written by me to advocate the use of a simpler means of removing such bodies from the ear, and as the ten cases reported in it were, for the most part, in support of the advocacy of this simple means, it becomes apparent to your readers why, as Dr. Grey correctly says, I did not employ this method in the removal of the foreign body from the ear.—I am, sir, your most obedient servant,
Glasgow, March 16th, 1878. JAMES PATTERSON CASSELLS.

DIALYSED IRON.

SIR,—In reply to Dr. Cavafy, allow us to ask whether, practically, it is of any material importance that colloid hydrate of iron should or should not be called dialysed iron? The product is obtained by dialysis, and cannot be obtained by any other process; and by the use of the term it is not, we imagine, implied that the colloid hydrate has passed through the membrane, nor is it necessary that it should do so to make it a valuable medicament. We presume Dr. Cavafy will not dispute the fact, that all nitrogenous food is "colloid", but it is absorbed none the less; and the hydrated oxide of iron cannot, therefore, fail to be at once acted upon by the acid of the gastric juice, and rendered capable of absorption: it is, in fact, in the condition which of all others is most favourable for this process. In addition to being chemically untenable, Dr. Cavafy's objection is overthrown by actual experience. We have it on the authority of a London physician, who has prescribed the "fer Bravais" (Bravais' dialysed iron) largely in his own practice, that all the good effects of iron are obtained with remarkable rapidity by the use of this preparation; and that, after taking it, less of the metal is observed in the evacuations than when other ferric preparations are taken; whilst the flatulence, constipation, and disturbance of the digestion, which other preparations of iron so often give rise to, are avoided when dialysed iron is administered. We leave French physicians to answer for themselves, and remain, dear sir, yours obediently,

ROBT. VON GLEHN & SONS, the Agents for Raoul, Bravais & Co.

Idol Lane, Great Tower Street, London, March 22nd, 1877.

P.S.—We would further call attention to the notice which appeared in your *JOURNAL* of March 3rd, 1877, respecting Bravais' dialysed iron.

DETECTION OF STONE IN THE BLADDER.

SIR,—Will you kindly permit me to point out what to my mind is an important inaccuracy in your report of Sir Henry Thompson's reply to certain observations which I made at the meeting of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society on the 12th instant? You state as follows. "In reply to Mr. Napier, he said that stone in the bladder could be detected at an early state by any intelligent medical man". I am under the impression that the words used were "ought to be"; and as they convey a very different meaning, I trust (knowing your great desire to be correct in such matters) that you will excuse my troubling you with this letter. It is too well known that, even in the hands of the greatest experts, the presence of stone in the bladder, although suspected, is often left undetected; and no better proof could be adduced, than in the hands of the general practitioners very many mistakes are made, than the numerous large stones lately exhibited by Sir Henry Thompson.—I am, sir, faithfully yours,
WM. DONALD NAPIER.

22, George Street, Hanover Square, March 27th, 1878.

A CURE OF EPILEPSY.

In connection with a letter from A. H. D., it is our duty to draw attention to the following documents, forwarded at the same time, and since in duplicate by other correspondents.

"*Fits.—Epileptic Fits or Falling Sickness.*—A certain method of cure has been discovered for this distressing complaint by a physician, who is desirous that all sufferers may benefit from this providential discovery. It is never known to fail, and will cure the most hopeless case after all other means have been tried. Full particulars will be sent by post to any person free of charge.—Address—Mr. Williams, 10, Oxford Terrace, Hyde Park, London."

This is an advertisement from a weekly paper. In response to a reply to the advertisement were forwarded the following lithographed circulars.

"London.

"In accordance with the wish expressed in your favour, I am directed to send you Dr. Niblett's treatise on various diseases, in which you will find full particulars of the preparations used. A clergyman, whose son has been cured by the medicines, has published an edition of ten thousand copies of this treatise, and he has instructed me to send a copy to any one who may wish it. Should you or any of your friends require the doctor's advice, I am desired to say he will be happy to reply to any letters free of charge.—I am, your obedient servant, W. WILLIAMS."

"London.

"Your letter has been handed to me by Mr. Williams, and I have directed him to forward you one of my treatises, which I hope you have received safely. Should it, however, by any mishap have been delayed or lost, I shall have much pleasure in sending you another by return of post, on receiving an intimation from you to that effect. I take this opportunity of enclosing you a few of my printed forms, to fill up in case you or any of your friends should desire to place yourselves under my treatment; in which case you will find it convenient to fill up one of the enclosed forms and return it to me.—I am, yours faithfully, S. BERRY NIBLETT."

There was also forwarded a copy of a pamphlet *On a Rational Method of Treating Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and all Diseases of the Lungs, Liver, and Heart. Also a Treatise on Epilepsy and Fits: with Practical Observations on many Prevalent Diseases.* By S. Berry Niblett, M.D., Royal College of Physicians. One part of the pamphlet runs thus:

"*Treatment of Consumption.*—In recommending the following treatment, I trust that I am actuated by an earnest desire to benefit those whose cases it may serve to illustrate. My aim is to lessen human suffering and to prolong human life. "Blessed art of healing, once again divine."

The specific medicine which I have so successfully prepared for every form and variety of consumption, and all disease of the lungs and air-passages, is called *The Restorative Balsam*. There is not a single symptom of consumption that this balsam will not take hold of and eradicate. Its action is immediate; it will also remove chronic bronchitis, asthma, sharp pains in the chest, difficult expectoration, sore throats, coughs, and colds, also general debility. It will nourish and strengthen the vital organs by purifying the blood and removing all nervousness; it will greatly assist the digestive organs and increase the appetite; it will itself nourish the patients for weeks at a time."

On page 16 the following passages occur:—"Treatment of Epilepsy."—"Heed not the twaddling of ignorance, but listen to the voice of judgment and experience."—After several years of experiment and research, I have been enabled to discover a certain remedy for all forms of epilepsy and fits; it is called *The Vital Renewer*. This invaluable remedy will cure the most inveterate cases, even when the fits have lasted for years. None need, therefore, despair. It is perfectly harmless; it is prepared exclusively by myself, and no cost has been spared to bring it to the specific remedy it now is."

From this the whole of the pamphlet may be inferred. In the *Medical General Register* is the following entry:—"1850, January 1st, Niblett, Stephen Berry, 10, Oxford Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W., Lic. Soc. Apoth. Lond., 1858; Lic. R. Coll. Phys. Edin. 1860; Lic. Fac. Surg. Glasg., 1861."

The profession will be interested to know whether the licensing bodies in question are disposed to allow this to pass unnoticed much longer.

MENSTRUATION AND THE CURING OF MEAT.

SIR.—The question asked by your correspondent in the JOURNAL of March and has just been recalled to my mind. Last week, I ordered a pig to be killed, but the cook demurred, and made excuse about not being able to attend to the curing. My wife afterwards informed me that she objected because she was in a "certain way." The killing was therefore postponed. This was a *hog pig*. The next day, my men remarked that I must not think of killing the sow, as she was "breeding," and therefore would not take the salt. I have, then, in my establishment two persons firmly asserting two distinct facts—that the hams and bacon will not cure if the rubber be menstruating, and that if a sow be killed when "breeding" it will not take the salt. During the past few days, I have spoken to several matrons about the opinion, who all believe firmly in it. One person had a number of hams spoiled through the thoughtlessness of the cook; and since then she has had them rubbed by a man. I may say that this belief is not peculiar to a locality. I knew it to be held in the north and south of England. I have only heard one explanation—the moisture that is on the hands and body during the catamenial period. This matter might be decided by experiments made in lunatic asylums or prisons, under the direction of the medical officers.—Your obedient servant,

March 18th, 1878.

R. B.

THE BRUSSELS DEGREE.

SIR.—In answer to the inquiries that are being made regarding this degree, permit me to give a slight sketch of the conditions on which it may be obtained and the nature of the examinations, as I have been in Brussels lately and taken the degree. The candidates must hold a diploma in medicine and surgery, and produce the same to the secretary before the first examination. He must matriculate; the fee is £8 12s. It entitles him to attend all the lectures in the Faculty of Medicine, and the clinics at the hospitals, St. Jean and St. Pierre, for the year. He must pay the examination fees, four guineas for each examination, or twelve guineas in all. Forty-eight hours after matriculation he may go up for the first examination. It consists of the following subjects, 1. Special Pathology; the examiner is Professor Croq; 2. General Pathology, Professor Desmets; 3. Pathological Anatomy, Professor Wehankel; 4. Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Professor Van den Corput. If he pass this test, he receives a certificate to that effect, and forty-eight hours afterwards he may go up for the second. The following are the names of the examiners and the subjects. Surgery and Surgical Pathology, Professor Thierry; Midwifery, Professor Pigeolet; Forensic Medicine, Professor Guillery; Hygiene, Professor Mahaux. Forty-eight hours after passing this examination, he may go up to the third and final. Clinical Medicine, Professor Croq; Clinical Surgery, Professor De Roubaix; Operative Surgery, Professor Tirifiah; Operative Midwifery, Professor Pigeolet. If a candidate fail in the first test, he is re-

funded eight guineas; if he pass the first and fail in the second, he is refunded four guineas; if he fail in the third, there is no money refunded, but by paying an extra guinea at any time within twelve months he can come back again and have another trial. Some of the professors speak English, and examine the candidates in that language, but most do so through an interpreter. The only special book that I would recommend is Parkes's *Manual of Hygiene*. The ordinary text-books used do well enough. The subjects that most men are weak in are pathology, hygiene, and anatomy.

Intending candidates should write to Dr. James, 10, Rue de Luxembourg, Brussels. He is Professor of Latin, and, being an Englishman, generally acts as interpreter. He informed me that the percentage of rejections about three or four years ago was only five per cent.; during the last year it has been about thirty-three per cent., or one in three. The examinations are public; and a gentleman who is a F.R.C.S. came over for examination, and was present during two of the days that I was being examined. He saw that the tests were more stringent than he expected, and determined to remain and read up for a week or two before going up. I took notes of all the questions asked; and if you think they would be of any use, I will forward them for publication.—I am, faithfully yours,

March 1878.

C. B. G.

The following communications have been handed to the General Manager:—Dr. J. Smith, Dumfries; Mr. F. J. Gill, Birmingham; Mr. H. S. Worsley Benson, London; Mr. James Kirkeley, South Shields; Mr. H. S. Beaufort, Lyan; Mr. T. H. Wilson, Montrose.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Western Morning News; The Yorkshire Post; The Coventry Herald; The Wisbech Advertiser; The West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser; The League Journal; The Liverpool Daily Post; The Newport and Drayton Advertiser; The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette; The Glasgow Herald; The Oswestry Advertiser; The Edinburgh Courant; The Middlesex County Times; The Liverpool Evening Albion; The Daily Courier; The Kelso Chronicle; The Fifeshire Herald; The Merthyr Express; The Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald; 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. T. Spencer Wells, London; Dr. T. Clifford Albutt, Leeds; Dr. George Johnson, London; Mr. F. W. Lowndes, Liverpool; Dr. F. A. Mahomed, London; Mr. Pugin Thornton, London; Dr. W. B. Cheadle, London; Mr. T. H. Bartlett, Birmingham; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; Dr. Edis, London; Dr. J. Milner Fothergill, London; The Secretary of the Medical Society of London; Mr. Teevan, London; The Secretary of the Epidemiological Society; Mr. Eastes, London; Dr. Durham, London; The Secretary of the Hunterian Society; Dr. W. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; M.D.; The Registrar-General of England; Dr. C. Theodore Williams, London; Dr. Bradbury, Cambridge; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Dr. J. Smith, Dumfries; Dr. Tilbury Fox, London; Dr. J. Duncan, Edinburgh; X.; J. M. L., Mickleover; Dr. Francis Warner, London; Electron; The Secretary of the Metropolitan and National Nursing Association; Dr. J. Waltham, Ipswich; T.; Dr. W. R. Thorne, Sheffield; Mr. P. E. Hill, Crickhowell; Mr. H. N. Hardy, London; Dr. W. C. Wicks, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. Reuben Harvey, Dublin; Captain Fortescue, London; A. M. D.; Dr. Lush, M.P., London; Dr. J. B. Spence, Redhill; Mr. J. Cran, Salford; Dr. T. Churton, Leeds; Dr. Michael Foster, Huntingdon; Our Dublin Correspondent; The Honorary Secretaries of the Bath and Bristol Branch; Dr. A. B. Brabazon, Bath; Mr. T. J. E. Brown, Llanbister; Member, Lockerbie; Mr. H. W. S. Worsley Benson, London; Dr. E. M. Skerrett, Clifton; Dr. J. P. Cassells, Glasgow; W.; Mr. J. Bluett, Chesterfield; Mr. Delmad, Manchester; Mr. R. Clement Lucas, London; Mr. W. K. Treves, Margate; Mr. W. H. Michael, London; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Dr. Tripe, London; The Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; M.; Mr. Howard Marsh, London; Dr. Ferrier, London; Dr. Joseph Coats, Glasgow; Mr. F. Workman, Reading; Dr. J. C. Reid, Newbiggen-by-the-Sea; Mr. T. L. Walford, Reading; Dr. H. M. Jay, Chippenham; Mr. F. Vacher, Birkenhead; Mr. H. S. Beaufort, Lynn; Dr. M. M. Bradley, Jarrow-on-Tyne; Mr. Ramsden, Ravensthorpe; Dr. Wm. Procter, York; Mr. Robinson, Dublin; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London; M.D.Ed.; Dr. W. O. Markham, London; A Parent, Winsford; Mr. J. Gell, Birmingham; Mr. Porter, Netley; Dr. W. H. Spencer, Clifton; Dr. J. Smith, Dumfries; Mr. T. S. Sawdon, Hull; Mr. D. Griffiths, Rhyl; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham; Dr. Howard, Preston; Dr. Mackey, Brighton; Mr. Charles Arnison, Darlington; Dr. Cheadle, London; Dr. Clifford Albutt, Leeds; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Transactions of the International Medical Congress: Philadelphia, 1876. By John Ashhurst, Jun., A.M., M.D. 1877.
Wholesome Houses. By E. Gregson Banner, C.E. London: Crosby, Lockwood, and Co. 1877.
A Handbook of Therapeutics. By Sidney Ringer, M.D. Sixth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1877.
The Human Eye: its Optical Construction popularly explained. By R. E. Dudgeon, M.D. London: Hardwicke and Bogue. 1877.
Cerebral Hyperemia: the result of Strain or Emotional Disturbance. By Wm. A. Hammond, M.D. New York: G. P. Putnam and Son. 1877.
A Manual of Nursing: prepared for the Training School for Nurses, attached to Bellevue Hospital. New York: Putnam's Sons. 1877.
Transactions of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society. Vol. iv, Sessions 1874, 1875, 1876, and 1877. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1878.
On Consumption and Certain Diseases of the Lungs and Pleura. By R. Douglas Powell, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1878.