

recommended by us, that we need not say we approve of it. It is, however, distinguished from others in having a "Surgical Appliance Branch" attached to it, from which the patients can obtain trusses, elastic stockings, etc., on favourable terms and by easy instalments; but we are sorry to observe, that for the more expensive instruments, the system of requiring "Governors' cards" has been adopted. We trust these "Governors' cards" are dispensed by the Committee, and that poor cripples have not to go round the town begging for them. The surgeons, who undertake to attend and see patients every day from 10 to 11 A.M., from 1 to 2 P.M., and again from 6 to 7 P.M., are perhaps a little too liberal of their services. To require medical men to give evening attendance at public institutions is to lay a heavy burden upon the profession.

CORRESPONDENCE.

VOTING FOR COUNCILLORS.

SIR,—I perceive you are publishing various letters on the question as to who are the proper persons to be elected members of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. It appears to me that one very important fact, in connection with that election, has been overlooked by the various writers on the subject, viz.: that, practically, the greater number of Fellows are disfranchised by the fact that it is necessary to be personally present at the election in order to vote. I should like to ask the intending candidates for the honour of the position of members of the Council of the College, whether they would be prepared to vote in favour of an alteration of that law: to allow, as is the case in many other elections, voting by voting-papers, sent round to the Fellows beforehand. If it would be in order, I should be happy to attend at the meeting for the election, in order to support any influential Fellow who would move a resolution to recommend an alteration of the by-laws, to that effect, to the Council.

I remain yours obediently,

GEORGE JACKSON, F.R.C.S.Eng. (Exam.)

Plymouth, June 10th, 1878.

THE METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH AND ASSOCIATION VOTING.

SIR,—A careful perusal of the laws of the Association and of its Metropolitan Counties Branch will, I think, convince your readers that there is absolutely no reason why the administrative action of the Executive should ever be seriously embarrassed by any supposed conflict of written papers with the vote of members in meeting assembled, which latter alone, as you point out, has official weight; the former, however valuable as a means of obtaining an expression of opinion from individual members of the profession, not being the mode in which, as members of the Association, they have agreed to record their votes, and the Executive, whatever their personal feelings or sympathies may be, being bound to carry out the legally expressed wishes of the members.

In the case of the late meeting of the Metropolitan Counties Branch, moreover, I contend that there has not been any contradiction (much less an official contradiction) between the so-called written votes of metropolitan members and the regularly obtained vote of the Branch.

This will at once be evident if we put together in the form of question and answer the queries to which the individual members replied, and a part of the resolutions passed by the Branch. Thus: *Q.* Are you of opinion that the medical profession should be directly represented in the General Medical Council?—*A.* It is desirable that the voice of the profession should be expressed in the Council by means of direct representation (4th Resolution).—*Q.* Are you of opinion that the establishment of a conjoint board for the granting of licences to practise all branches of the profession should be made compulsory in each of the three divisions of the kingdom?—*A.* It is desirable that the formation of conjoint examining boards should be made compulsory in each division of the kingdom (2nd Resolution).

Had it been desired to obtain an expression of opinion on the point really at issue between those who support and us who oppose the action of the Medical Reform Committee, a third query ought, I think, to have been added, something like this: Are you of opinion that we should repeat the policy pursued by us in 1870, and, like the Irish obstructives, oppose all medical legislation that does not provide for direct representation? and, put in that form, I have little doubt that the answer given in the written papers would have been substantially the same as that given by vote of the Branch—No, certainly not!

However this may be, it is, I think, very desirable that the amended

Bill should be brought under the consideration of the Branch at the earliest possible moment. My friend Mr. R. H. S. Carpenter, to whom the profession is more indebted than to any other man in England for the enforcement of the law against quacks, tells me that the amended Bill will leave the profession in a worse position as regards these gentlemen, and also as regards practising chemists, than it is already, since it proposes to repeal the sections of the Apothecaries' Act, under which most of the successful prosecutions have been carried on, and to give nothing satisfactory in its place. The change also which has been made in the Bill while passing through Committee in the House of Lords, by which those who pass the conjoint boards will be able to register without connecting themselves with any of the corporations, is open to the objection urged by Dr. Quain with reference to colonial and foreign practitioners, that there would then be no check upon their professional conduct.

The title, too, which is to be conferred by this qualifying certificate system is open to discussion. One of your contemporaries has well pointed out that "medical practitioner" when shortened to M.P. would create confusion, and that Q.C. would also be liable to be misunderstood.

The Bill has passed rapidly through the Upper House; and, unless action be taken by our Branch at once, these and other important points may not receive sufficient attention in the House of Commons.—Faithfully yours,

H. NELSON HARDY.

IS ALCOHOL FOOD?

SIR,—A family bereavement has prevented an earlier reply to the letter of Dr. Markham, and is my apology to the members of the Association for not having taken an earlier notice of that communication.

Dr. Markham calls in question the truth of a certain statement which I made in my address on Alcoholic Drinks, viz., that every medical man (in extensive practice) must have seen cases which now and then have fallen to my lot to witness, in which life had been prolonged by the stimulants which the patients would alone consume. Dr. Markham omitted one very important and qualifying part of the statement. I said "every medical man in extensive practice"; I should also have said in extensive family practice. If Dr. Markham is excessively interested in this fact, I will show him a case which is now under my care, and which I have carefully watched for some years. The patient existed for some months entirely on stimulants, and during more than three months she did not take two ounces of any other kind of food. There was no deception in the case. The parents and sisters who attended upon her, and who tried all kinds of methods of getting other food taken, entirely failed to do so. It is true she became, and still is, a skeleton; but the fact remains that absolutely no other food was taken for a length of time than that which I have mentioned.

When I delivered the oration, I had also two other cases in my mind in which two old ladies lived on stimulants alone for several weeks before death, and I have no reason to suppose that I was deceived by the attendants. Almost every large private lunatic asylum will probably contain cases which are of a similar character.

I might have declined to answer Dr. Markham; I do not think he is quite aware of the offensive style in which he has put his question. I will, however, pass that by, and simply remark that, on asking for the grounds on which an argument is founded, it is not necessary to charge your antagonist with falsehood.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Croydon, June 10th, 1878.

ALFRED CARPENTER.

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 10th day of July next, at Two o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE,

General Secretary.

36, Great Queen Street, London, W.C., June 12th, 1878.

EDINBURGH BRANCH.

THE annual general meeting of the above Branch will be held at 5, St. Andrew's Square, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, June 18th, at 4 P.M.: Sir ROBERT CHRISTISON, Bart., President, in the Chair.

CHARLES E. UNDERHILL, Honorary Secretary.

Edinburgh, June 4th, 1878.

CAMBRIDGE AND HUNTINGDON, EAST ANGLIAN, AND SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCHES.

A CONJOINT meeting of these Branches will be held at Peterborough, on Friday, June 21st; T. J. WALKER, M.D., President-elect.

PROGRAMME OF PROCEEDINGS.

11.45 A.M. Each Branch will meet separately at the Peterborough Infirmary, to transact Branch business.

12.30 P.M. Morning general meeting: President's address, etc.

1.15 P.M. Luncheon at residence of President-elect.

2.15 P.M. General meeting for the reading and discussion of papers, etc.

5.0 P.M. H. M. Townsend, Esq., architect, will conduct a party over the Cathedral and surrounding buildings.

6.0. Dinner at Great Northern Hotel. Tickets 15s. each, wine inclusive.

The President-elect will be obliged if those members who propose to attend the dinner will communicate their intention to him not later than Monday, the 17th instant.

The following papers have been promised.

1. J. B. Bradbury, M.D., Cambridge: Notes of two Cases of Obscure Disease of the Liver: with Remarks.

2. F. Buszard, M.D., Northampton: A Case of Pseudo-hypertrophic Paralysis.

3. W. Cadge, Esq., Norwich: The Diagnosis and Complications of Diabetes.

4. Peter Eade, M.D., Norwich: Case of Chronic Dysentery treated by Milk only.

5. A. Haviland, Esq., Northampton: The Distribution of Zymotic Diseases from Epidemic Centres.

6. G. M. Humphry, M.D., F.R.S., Cambridge: 1. Hospital Practice in Norway, Sweden, and Russia; 2. Case of Recovery after Removal of a Fungous Growth in the Bladder.

7. John Lowe, M.D., Lynn: Lithotomy in a Case of large Phosphatic Calculus, the Nucleus being a Bone Penholder, which had been two years in the Bladder.

8. W. Newman, M.D., Stamford: The Antiseptic Dressing of Wounds.

9. C. E. Prior, M.D., Bedford: Five years' Experience of Enteric Fever by a Medical Officer of Health.

10. W. Thomson, M.D., Peterborough: Notes on Gastrotomy in a Case of Stricture of the Oesophagus: with Report of a Successful Case.

11. Job Watson, Esq., St. Ives: A Case of Severe Gunshot Wound of the Skull terminating in Complete Recovery.

12. George Wherry, B.A., Cambridge: On the Disadvantages and Disorders of Hypermetropic Eyes.

Dr. T. S. Walker will be glad to arrange for the reception for the night, by himself or his friends, of members from a distance, for whose return there is no late evening train.

All qualified members of the profession residing in the neighbourhood are invited to attend the meeting, even if not members of the Association.

Wm. A. ELLISTON, M.D., Ipswich,

J. B. PITTS, M.D., Norwich,

BUSHELL ANNINSON, M.D., Cambridge, } Honorary Secretaries.

G. F. KIRBY SMITH, Northampton,

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE forty-second annual meeting of this Branch will take place at Bailey's Hotel, Blackpool, on Friday, June 28th, 1878, at 1 P.M.; Dr. STEELE (Liverpool) President.

The following communications have been promised.

1. Mr. Reginald Harrison: On the Use of Filiform Bougies with Tunnelled Instruments (Gouley's) in the Treatment of Stricture of the Urethra.

2. Dr. Haddon: 1. Two Cases of Ulcerating Endocarditis, with Temperature Charts and Sphygmographic Tracings; 2. An Easy Way of Noting Cases in General Practice.

3. Dr. Howie: The Grape-Cure in Bilious Nausea and Early Pregnancy.

4. The Report of the Duration of Infection Committee will be read, and a summary of the results obtained will be given.

The members will dine together at Bailey's Hotel, at five o'clock. Charge 7s. 6d., exclusive of wine. Gentlemen intending to be present at the dinner are requested to forward their names to Dr. Leslie Jones, Blackpool, not later than June 24th.

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

Manchester, June 13th, 1878.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the Branch will be held at the Mineral Water Hospital, Bath, on Wednesday, June 26th, at 4.30 P.M., when H. MARSHALL, M.D., will resign the Chair to H. HENSLEY, M.D. The members will afterwards dine together at the York House.

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

Bath, June 4th, 1878.

MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at Lincoln, on Thursday, June 27th: President—C. H. MARRIOTT, M.D.; President-elect, A. MERCER ADAM, M.D.

Members desirous of reading papers are requested to communicate with C. HARRISON, M.D., Honorary Secretary.

Lincoln, May 14th, 1878.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Torquay, on Thursday, June 20th, at 1.50 P.M.

Luncheon (provided by Dr. Radclyffe Hall, President-elect) will be from 11.30 A.M. to 1 P.M.; and dinner (7s. 6d., exclusive of wine) at 5.15 P.M.: both at the Imperial Hotel.

Gentlemen wishing to read papers, or to dine, are requested to give notice to the Secretary on or before the 18th instant.

LOUIS H. TOSSWILL, M.B., Honorary Secretary.

Exeter, June 12th, 1878.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at Hartlepool, on Thursday, July 25th, at 3 P.M.

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

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, June 8th, 1878.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham, on Tuesday, July 2nd. The Chair will be taken by the President, SAMPSON GAMGEE, Esq., at 3 P.M.

An address will be delivered by the President-elect, Dr. TIBBITS, of Warwick.

The annual dinner will also take place at the Midland Hotel, at 5 P.M. precisely, for the convenience of country members. Dinner tickets, exclusive of wine, 7s. 6d. each.

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

Birmingham, June 11th, 1878.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at Neath, on Thursday, July 11th: J. TALFOURD JONES, M.B., President; JOHN RUSSELL, Esq. (Neath), President-elect.

Any members desirous of reading papers, etc., are requested to communicate the titles to either of the Honorary Secretaries.

ANDREW DAVIES, M.D., } Honorary Secretaries.
ALFRED SHEEN, M.D., }

June 12th, 1878.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SUSSEX DISTRICT.

A MEETING of this district was held at the Star Hotel, Lewes, on Friday, May 24th; N. P. BLAKER, Esq., of Brighton, in the chair. Sixteen members and visitors were present.

Communications.—The following communications were made.

1. Mr. PENFOLD of Brighton showed a Photograph of a Tumour in the Left Orbit occurring in a married woman, and related its history and treatment.

2. Mr. BLAKER read particulars of three cases of Visceral Syphilis; viz., a. Large Gummata of Liver, one situated in the Lobus Spigelii causing Obstruction of the Portal Veins and Dropsy; b. Syphilitic Deposit in Liver and Head of Pancreas obstructing the Ductus Communis Choledochus; c. Syphilitic Disease of the Dura Mater producing Epileptic Fits, the second fit being fatal.

3. Dr. W. WITHERS MOORE related a case of Hemiplegia and Subsequent Apoplexy from Embolism.

Deaths of Members.—Mr. BLAKER moved, Mr. GRAVELY seconded, and it was carried: "That this meeting cannot separate without expressing their deep regret at the lamented death of the late Dr. Cunningham of Hailsham, one of the Vice-Presidents of this Branch; and also of Mr. Whitefield of Eastbourne."

The Dinner took place at the Star; Mr. Blaker in the chair.

The Next Meeting is to be held at Hayward's Heath in September; and Dr. Braid was nominated to fill the chair.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE HOLLINGBOURN BOARD OF GUARDIANS AND OUTDOOR MEDICAL RELIEF.

THE guardians of this rural union some time since appointed a Committee to consider the question of outdoor relief. Their report, signed by the chairman, J. Paine, is before us; from that and other official sources we will proceed to lay before our readers certain facts well worthy of consideration.

The Hollingbourn Union, Kent, comprising an area of 60,555 acres, contains a population of 14,047. This area and population are distributed into six medical relief districts, which vary remarkably in extent and population. In the year 1876-77, the cost of gross relief was £7,115, being at the rate of 10s. 1½d. per head of population; medical relief amounting to only £345 10s., inclusive of extras, which were £29 10s. From the return furnished at the instance of Dr. Lush, we learn that this board has paid no heed to the recommendation of the Select Committee on Poor Relief, 1864, which reported in favour of boards of guardians providing all expensive medicines; for this board supplies none—not even cod-liver oil for the consumptive and scrofulous sick. The importance of efficient medical relief in diminishing the duration, and therefore the costliness, of sickness when occurring among the wage-earning classes, has evidently never dawned on their minds, or we should not find in the rules and regulations which this board has drawn up the following. Able-bodied men eligible for relief, belonging to any club and falling sick, first, in all cases, to have medical relief on application; secondly, in all cases where the club-pay exceeds fourteen shillings a week, no relief to be given beyond the medical order; which, being interpreted, means that the guardians will not sanction the grant of any relief which is to cost the board anything, but that they will not object to saddling their ill-paid medical officers with the charges for visiting and the provision of medicines and appliances. The heavy poor-relief outlay, the smallness of pay and general insufficiency of the medical relief arrangements, prove conclusively that it is to the starvation of the latter that the excessive amount of the former is due. What inducement can there be for frequent visits or liberality in prescribing, on the part of medical officers serving such a parsimonious board? These rules and regulations for limiting outdoor relief are conceived in a very illiberal spirit, and show that such boards as this of Hollingbourn have erroneous notions of the manner in which they should deal with the arrangements which relate to the medical care of the poor committed to their charge. We are satisfied that they will fail in securing the end the board is striving to obtain; viz., the diminution of the charges on poor-relief.

MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

NETLEY TRAINING.

The Army and Navy Gazette publishes the following paragraph.

"In referring three weeks since to the call upon the medical profession to provide candidates for immediate entry as naval surgeons, we pointed out the objection felt by many qualified practitioners to pass the required examination and to go through the course at Netley. Our remarks have called forth the approval of one of very high standing in the profession, who, from his position, should be able to gauge the feeling of would-be candidates, and he remarks that 'for the Netley staff to presume to test the qualifications of men whose names are on the official register is a piece of presumption without a parallel, and the great stumbling-block to obtaining a sufficient supply of medical candidates for the public service'. We trust their lordships will not let this opinion pass unnoticed."

We can assure our contemporary that, however high be the standing of the gentleman in question, the information with which he has fur-

nished it does not accord with the general feeling in the civil profession, in the service, or in the medical schools, but can represent the crotchet only of very few. We believe, indeed, that such a statement is not only unfounded, but the exact and complete reverse of the fact. The immense advantages of a course of Netley training to the army medical officer has long been recognised; and the boon lately secured to the navy of participating in the advantages of that course is very generally and largely appreciated. No doubt, the incapable, the indolent, and the frivolous, who see in the medical services of the army and navy only a chance of idling or masquerading on a secured pittance, or of securing a living which imperfect attainments and constitutional indolence make doubtful in the competition of home life—such men shrink from the further labour of the Netley course and the tests of increasing and special proficiency which it provides. But the army and the navy have great cause to remember with gratitude those who founded and those who carry on that admirable school of special technical training for the services. A proof, moreover, that the fear of Netley is not the cause of the dearth of candidates is afforded in this particular instance, when the special announcement that the Netley course would be omitted, the implied indication that examination-tests would be specially lenient, and the spirit-stirring prospect of early active service, failed to secure even the limited number of candidates required. The fact is, that the conditions of service require to be further improved in the direction already long since laid before the Admiralty by impartial and well-informed persons, of which a summary was formally presented to the First Lord by the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association.

OBITUARY.

ROBERT GARDINER HILL, L.R.C.P.E., F.S.A.

ROBERT GARDINER HILL died suddenly, of apoplexy, at his residence, Earl's Court House, Old Brompton, on May 30th. He was born in Louth in 1811, was educated at Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals, and qualified as M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. in 1834. He became L.R.C.P.Ed. in 1859. In 1834, he was appointed house-surgeon to the General Dispensary at Lincoln; in the following year, he was elected medical superintendent to the Lincoln Lunatic Hospital, which office he held for five years. He afterwards practised at Lincoln, and became proprietor of Eastgate House, a private asylum for the insane. He was very popular in Lincoln, and was chosen mayor of the town in 1852. He subsequently removed to London, and became proprietor of Earl's Court House, a private lunatic asylum, and once the house of John Hunter. Of Mr. Hill's services in the improved treatment of the insane, we speak in another column.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following members of the College, having undergone the necessary examinations for the Fellowship at the half-yearly meetings terminating on the 3rd instant, were reported to have acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of the Court of Examiners; and, at a meeting of the Council on the 13th instant, were admitted Fellows of the College.

Messrs. Charles Firth, Norwich, diploma of membership dated November 18th, 1873; Charles E. Harrison, Army, January 21st, 1874; Harold B. Boulter, Hull, July 27th, 1874; George H. Hames, Leicester, April 20th, 1875; Frederick S. Edwards, St. Peter's Park, W., November 17th, 1875; and Robert H. A. Schofield, Cambridge Gardens, May 23rd, 1877 (Students of St. Bartholomew's Hospital); Edward F. Brockmeier, Addison Gardens, November 14th, 1865; and William A. Frost, Ladbrooke Square, July 22nd, 1874 (of St. George's Hospital); George E. Williamson, North Shields, April 21st, 1874 (of the London Hospital); Francis R. Cross, Bristol, January 25th, 1871 (of King's College); Rhinalit N. ap J. Pughe, Liverpool, April 22nd, 1873 (of the Liverpool School); Frank T. Paul, Liverpool, July 22nd, 1873; George A. Wright, Romford, April 26th, 1877 (of Guy's Hospital); Bernard M. S. Roth, Wimpole Street, July 28th, 1874 (of University College); Horace Manders, Marlborough, November 16th, 1875 (of St. Mary's Hospital); and Gerald F. Yeo, Albemarle Street, not a member (of the Dublin, Paris, Berlin, and Vienna Schools).

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

At the same meeting of the Council, the following members were elected Fellows of the College.

Messrs. J. Hyde Houghton, Dudley, diploma of membership dated April 2nd, 1828; R. James Mann, Wandsworth, June 26th, 1840; and W. Berry Kellock, Stamford Hill, May 5th, 1843.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, June 6th, 1878.

Hine, Alfred Leonard, Oakley Street, Chelsea
Prince, Herbert Francis, Park Street, Taunton
Stewart, John McDougall, 12, Cambridge Gardens, N.W.
Taylor, Richard Stanley, Friar Gate, Derby

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

Livy, Frederic Young, Manchester Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:

BIRMINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL—Assistant-Physician. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications to be made on or before the 29th instant.

BRIGHTON HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN—House-Surgeon and Dispenser. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing.

EAST RIDING LUNATIC ASYLUM—Medical Superintendent. Salary £350 per annum, with furnished house, coals, and gas. Applications to be made on or before the 28th instant.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL—Surgeon to the Out-Patients' Department. Applications to be made on or before July 2nd.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, MANCHESTER—Junior Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £80 per annum, with board and residence. Applications to be made on or before the 25th instant.

KENMARE UNION—Medical Officer to Kenmare Dispensary District. Salary, £100 a year, with £25 as Sanitary Officer, and the usual Registration and Vaccination Fees. Applications to be made on or before the 26th instant.

KENT and CANTERBURY HOSPITAL—Physician. Applications to be made on or before the 28th instant.

LIMERICK UNION—Apothecary to Workhouse. Salary, £100 a year, with apartments, fuel, and light; but applications will be received for the post at £100 a year, with permission to reside in Limerick. Election will take place on the 19th instant.

LONDON FEVER HOSPITAL—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £200 per annum, with residence, coals, gas, and attendance.

MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY, DISPENSARY, and LUNATIC HOSPITAL—Ophthalmic Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before the 29th instant.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL—Assistant-Physician. Applications to be made on or before July 2nd.

RAMSGATE AND ST. LAWRENCE ROYAL DISPENSARY AND SEAMEN'S INFIRMARY—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £130 per annum, with furnished apartments, gas, firing, and attendance. Applications to be made on or before July 1st.

ROYAL HOSPITAL OF BETHLEHEM—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £300 per annum, with furnished apartments. Applications to be made on or before the 20th instant.

ST. MARYLEBONE GENERAL DISPENSARY—Honorary Physician. Applications to be made on or before July 1st.

SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL, GREENWICH—House-Physician. Salary, £75 per annum; and House-Surgeon, salary, £50 per annum, with board and lodging in each case. Applications to be made on or before the 27th instant.

SOMERSET COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £120 per annum, with board, residence, and washing.

SOUTH DEVON AND EAST CORNWALL HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with board. Applications to be made on or before July 8th.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £140 per annum, with furnished apartments, washing, attendance, etc. Applications to be made on or before the 10th instant.

WESTBOURNE PROVIDENT DISPENSARY—Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before the 20th instant.

WEST BROMWICH DISTRICT HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with board, residence, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 26th instant.

WOLVERHAMPTON AND STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL—House-Physician. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, washing, and apartments.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, washing, and apartments.—Honorary Physician. Applications to be made on or before the 24th instant.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

DE TATHAM, H., M.D., appointed Obstetric Physician to the Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Hospital, and Professor of Midwifery in the Grant Medical College, Bombay.

GREENE, Richard, L.R.C.P. Ed. (Medical Superintendent of the East Riding Asylum, Beverley), appointed Medical Superintendent of the Northampton County Asylum, *vice* G. Millson, L.R.C.P., resigned.

***MORTON, A. Stanford, M.B., C.M.**, appointed Assistant-Surgeon at the Royal South London Ophthalmic Hospital.

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.

MARRIAGES.

PIERCE—PEARSON.—On June 6th, at Platt Unitarian Chapel, Rusholme, by the Rev. C. Beard, B.A., uncle of the bride, *Frederick Morrish Pierce, M.D., L.R.C.P. Lond., of Manchester, to Hannah Sophia (Sophie), only daughter of John Pearson, J.P., of Heald Grove, Rusholme, late of Staleybridge.

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.—Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Mr. T. Spencer Wells, "Lectures on the Diagnosis and Surgical Treatment of Abdominal Tumours". Lecture IV: Details of Different Steps in the Operation of Ovariotomy—Position of Patient—Incision—Adhesions—Opening and Emptying of Cyst—its Removal—Treatment of Pedicle—Closure of Wound—Dressing and After-Treatment.

WEDNESDAY.—Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Mr. T. Spencer Wells, "Lectures on the Diagnosis and Surgical Treatment of Abdominal Tumours". Lecture V: Results of the Operation—History of Recovered Patients—Proportion of Incomplete Operations, and the Results—Cases of Recurrence and Second Operation—Successive Changes in the Mode of Operating and After-Treatment.

FRIDAY.—Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Mr. T. Spencer Wells, "Lectures on the Diagnosis and Surgical Treatment of Abdominal Tumours". Lecture VI: Antiseptics in Abdominal Surgery; Surgical Treatment of Uterine Tumours.

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.

THE TITLE OF DOCTOR.

We have received again a very large number of letters on the subject of medical titles. Speaking generally, members in possession of an University M.D. of Scotland or Ireland are astonished at the puerility of those who claim the title of Doctor without possessing the University diploma. The opposite opinion prevails among correspondents who have been educated in England, where the facilities of a complete medical education are great, but opportunities for graduation as M.D. are denied to all but a very small minority of medical students. We cannot publish all these letters, or even a small proportion of them; and, indeed, although their number, and the frequency with which the correspondence is renewed, show that a very strong feeling prevails, we cannot say that they add anything to arguments already advanced. Persistence and number, however, constitute an argument in themselves; and, as we have already said, we can but recognise the fact, that, while the title of Doctor is denied to all but University graduates, completely educated English medical men labour under a plain disadvantage in comparison with graduates who, with no higher education, but with local advantages of title, settle alongside of them in practice.

ERRATUM.—A. H. T. C. was last week informed that the title of Mr. Birkett's work is *Diseases of the Heart, and their Treatment*; it should have been *Diseases of the Breast, and their Treatment*.

NOTICES of Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Appointments, intended for insertion in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, should arrive at the Office not later than 10 A.M. on Thursday.

UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANTS.

SIR.—It was with much interest that I read the letter of "Undergraduate" in the JOURNAL of May 18th, as I believe he represents one of a comparatively select few of the great mass of unqualified assistants. These last are a class of men for whom, as a rule, I have little or no sympathy, many of them being students who have at one time been more or less brought up with every advantage, have perhaps finished their curriculum, and had every opportunity for studying, so as to enable them to qualify and become members of an honourable profession; but they have chosen to throw them away, have neglected their studies, lectures, and work generally. Here and there, indeed, you may find one who retraces his steps, and, by a fixed determination to amend, under favourable circumstances passes the portal and enters the profession a sadder but wiser man. Again, there are some men who never intend to qualify, who never work with that view. With such I have nought to do; they deserve whatever fate befalls them; and should they some day find that the law causes their vocation to be gone, it is only what they can expect. All these are the men who bring discredit on the calling of the medical assistant, together with those medical men who willingly delegate their duties to them. But that the unqualified assistant should be condemned entirely, is, to say the least, as uncharitable as it is inconsistent. There are exceptions, of whom, I hope and believe, "Undergraduate" is a type, who are worthy of the utmost consideration and sympathy—men for whom we should have the keenest desire to see helped and encouraged in their path, beset with many difficulties of no ordinary degree—men who have been diligent pupils, doing their best to obtain a sound knowledge of their profession, but who find themselves unexpectedly, by force of circumstances, misfortune, or some calamity, thrown upon life's battle before they have finished their curriculum, or enabled to pass all or any of their examinations. With these should be classed those students who are friendless and without means, who have never had the opportunity to qualify, but, wishing to enter the profession, and having no help but their own exertions, are undergoing many privations, endeavouring step by step to reach the goal and enter the portal by sheer hard work, extending over a long time. All honour due to such men, who often turn out our brightest and most learned examples, but, too often, at great cost of time and health. All these are men who make assistants of undoubted value, as they possess those qualities most to be desired in an assistant. They are not unqualified because they wish it, but by virtue of their inability to obtain the necessary means; and all sensible well thinking people could not be so unjust and cruel as to wish to deprive them of the only means they have of getting a living. There are few men, perhaps, that have less sympathy for the mass of unqualified assistants than myself; but there are exceptions, such as I have pointed out, for whom I have the warmest good wishes. I believe much might be done for the good of such men as "Undergraduate" and others, were the matter taken up by some eminent members of our profession.

I am afraid I have trespassed too much on your valuable space, but I trust and believe that you will, in common justice to the deserving unqualified assistants, give publication to this letter, as my object has been to show that they are not *all* such unworthy dogs as some would have us think.—I am, sir, yours obediently,

May 18th, 1878.

ANTI-HUMBUG.

J. W. E. V.—The address of Mr. Wickham Barnes, Honorary Secretary of the Poor-law Medical Officers' Association, is No. 3, Bolt Court, Fleet Street.

SUPERSTITION.

SIR.—There are sundry superstitions still abroad which, as they adversely influence some patients and their attendants, may deserve notice in the JOURNAL, with a view to giving medical men a cue for their abolition. That to which I especially now allude is the superstition relative to the "death-watch". Scientific men commonly affirm that the sound is caused by a beetle; but as it is sometimes heard where there are no beetles, people remain of their old opinion as to its supernatural origin.

About a fortnight ago, I heard a distinct ticking sound, exactly like that of a watch, and perfectly regular. It took some hunting to discover the cause, and at last I succeeded. A stone-jar of the usual pattern, with cork at one side and near the end, had been filled with very hot water the night before, and was in the morning standing on its end, nearly cold. There was, of course, a partial vacuum inside, and minute bubbles of air passing the cork and leaping through the water behind it caused the sound. It had been going on for fully half-an-hour, and stopped instantly on shifting the cork. To-day the same phenomenon occurred, and I called the servant's attention to it, and showed her how it stopped when the cork was moved. Now, if it happened that any one died in the house after a sound of this nature was heard, superstition would have been confirmed in the minds of the ignorant, who do not investigate causes; and in this instance it is not improbable, humanly speaking, that there might be a coincidence, since there are two invalids in the house, one suffering from a disorder about the heart. Hot-water bottles are so common in sick rooms, that I think the circumstance deserves noting.—Yours faithfully,

C. L. B.

COMPULSORY VACCINATION.

MR. JOHN BRIGHT has been visited rather severely by the medical journals for having, as they say, expressed himself in favour of selling indulgences to propagate small-pox. He holds that the payment of the first fine of twenty shillings should procure a recalcitrant parent immunity from further prosecution; "in other words, that every father should be at liberty to sacrifice the life of his children by omitting to protect them from the infection of small-pox, and to set up the foci of a dangerous and infectious disease on payment of twenty shillings". In calling this a most "pernicious and surprising doctrine", the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL does not go one whit beyond the mark. Of two things one: either vaccination is useless, and then it ought not to be enforced by any fine at all, or it is a prophylactic against a most pernicious and loathsome disease, and then it ought to be enforced even by imprisonment, just as one would enforce the law against the indiscriminate sale of poisons or explosives. To pass a law and then to contend that it may be broken for a sovereign, is to bring legislation and the legislature into contempt. There is no need to do that at a time when we are losing in London alone about eight lives a day through small-pox.—*Western Morning News.*

OPEN SURGERIES.

SIR.—Given an old established practice, together with a fairly remunerative open retail, I should be glad if any professional brother, who has had practical experience in a similar case, would kindly give me an estimate of the probable result, financially, to a practitioner of average ability, of closing the latter.—I am, sir, yours respectfully,

MEDICUS.

REMOVAL OF THE TONGUE BY LIGATURE.

SIR.—May I ask Mr. Fearnley, through the medium of the JOURNAL, to explain a paragraph in his letter of the 25th instant, in which he describes his mode of removing a tongue by immediate ligature? He says: "I have laterally transfixed the tongue with a blanket-pin, beginning at the right angle of the mouth and bringing it out at the left, and by this means carried the pin immediately in front of the epiglottis; I then placed a single loop of stout whipcord around the tongue, behind the pin", etc. What I wish to have explained here is, "the transfixion of the tongue with a blanket-pin". Why was this done? and will Mr. Fearnley also kindly tell me what a "blanket-pin" is? as I must confess to never having heard the term before.—Yours faithfully,

A MEMBER.

UTERINE HAEMORRHAGE.

SIR.—In the last JOURNAL (June 1st) I find a communication from Dr. D. Christie, describing his method of instantaneously arresting uterine haemorrhage, than which nothing gives more anxiety to the medical attendant. After an active professional life extending over more than forty years, I must confess my ideas in connection with physics have become somewhat hazy; but before admitting the safety of the plan recommended, will Dr. Christie kindly state the cubical contents of the bag he introduces into the uterus, and the diameter of the seven-and-a-half feet tube connected with it?—Yours truly,

G. H. FOSBROKE, Sen.

Bidford, June 5th, 1878.

THE publication of the letter of "A Medical Sufferer" would lead to a theological controversy.

PROFESSIONAL ADVERTISING.

SIR.—I beg to draw the attention of yourself and of the members of the British Medical Association to the enclosed circular, which has been extensively distributed in this neighbourhood. I observe Mr. James Kennedy is a member of the Association, and wish to have the opinion of his co-members regarding the production.—I am, etc.

M. B.

Fraserburgh, N.B., June 1878.

"Mr. James Kennedy, Surgeon, desires to intimate to the inhabitants of this town and surrounding districts, that, at the suggestions of many friends and others, he will attend, professionally, families who pay him a yearly sum of ten shillings each—lying-in cases and medicines excepted. Lying-in cases from ten shillings and sixpence to one guinea each, according to the circumstances of families. Professional visits in town to non-subscribers, one shilling each visit. These terms shall hold good up to two miles from Surgeon Kennedy's residence; and beyond two miles, and up to four miles, lying-in cases attended for one to two guineas each, according to agreement. Country patients attended at moderate rates.—Rosehearty, by Fraserburgh, Aberdeen, May 10th, 1878."

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 Chicago Times; The Manchester Guardian; The Berkshire Chronicle; The Glasgow Herald; The Oswestry Advertiser; The Edinburgh Daily 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; The Surrey Advertiser; The Stroud News; 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. J. G. McKendrick, Glasgow; Dr. George Johnson, London; Mr. H. Brown, Northallerton; Dr. H. H. Vernon, Southport; Dr. Wickham Legg, London; Dr. J. B. Walker, Golcar; Mr. G. Jackson, Plymouth; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London; Mr. Greene, Birmingham; Mr. Owen, Manchester; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. D. H. Tuke, London; Mr. Cay, Tunbridge Wells; Dr. Daly, Dalton; Mr. Richard Greene, Beverley; Mr. J. H. Palmer, Birmingham; Mr. C. Williams, Norwich; Dr. Levinge, Stapleton, Bristol; Dr. Smith, Pershore; Mr. Grant, Birmingham; Mr. W. E. W. Vaughan, Crewe; Mr. W. E. Hyde, Leominster; Mr. J. Startin, London; A. G. B.; Mr. Noble Smith, Paddockhurst; Medicus; Dr. J. W. Hamill, Manchester; Dr. A. Ransome, Manchester; C. L. B.; Mr. MacDonogh, Clapham; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; M. D.; Dr. J. Macpherson, London; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; The Secretary of the Medical Society of London; Dr. J. Milner Fothergill, London; The Registrar-General of England; Mr. Wilson, Plymouth; Dr. Edis, London; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Dr. Ferrier, London; Mr. A. S. Morton, London; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. Poore, London; Brain; Dr. Waters, Chester; Dr. A. Carpenter, Croydon; M. D. E.; Dr. E. C. Seaton, London; Mr. Power, Dartmoor; Dr. W. A. Sturge, London; Dr. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; Dr. Coats, Glasgow; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. J. Taylor, Ticehurst; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. Laffan, Cashel; Mr. Leslie, Hampstead; W.; Mr. Tosswall, Exeter; Mr. H. Taylor, Guildford; Dr. R. L. Batterbury, Berkhamsted; Dr. Lauder Lindsay, Perth; Mr. F. Manby, East Rudham; Mr. Nelson Hardy, London; Dr. Leech, Manchester; Mr. P. Mostyn Williams, Rhyl; Mr. Kirby Smith, Northampton; Mr. Gaine, Bath; Dr. Wardell, Tunbridge Wells; Mr. V. Jackson, Wolverhampton; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Mr. W. K. Curtis, Canterbury; Mr. Vacher, Birkenhead; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Dr. Maclare, Carlisle; Dr. A. Davies, Swansea; Dr. F. H. Parsons, Hastings; Mr. C. W. Martindale, Leamington; Surgeon-Major C. J. Johnston, Plymouth; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Transactions of the New York Pathological Society. Vols. i and ii. By John C. Peters, M.D. New York: Wm. Wood and Co. 1877.

A Practical Guide to Diseases of the Throat. By Lennox Browne, F.R.C.S. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1878.