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said she was going to a great flooding case at Windsor, and wanted a supply of ergot. He remarked that she must sign the book for ergot, and, in case of being engaged, she must send a written order. As the orders came he entered them in his book. [Book produced. Entries: October 25th, 5 oz. ergot; November 8th, 9 oz.; November 11th, 6 oz.; November 20th, 4 oz.; November 27th, 8 oz.; November 29th, 6 oz.; December 2nd, 3 oz.] Ergot came under Class 1, and must be signed for. When Mrs. Walker sent an old bottle, he merely put the ergot into it; but, if he supplied the bottle, he labelled it, and marked it "ergot; poison". The coroner and jury thanked Mr. Boothby for the honest and straightforward manner in which he had given his evidence.

Dr. Randall said that the quantities of ergot sold by the last witness were enormous. From ten to thirty drops of ergot were considered a dose in a case of labour; in a six-ounce bottle there would be ninety doses. In the most extreme cases, he should not give more than three or four doses.

Eventually the jury returned the following verdict:—"That Maria Josephine Harris was found dying and did die from the mortal effects of hæmorrhage from the womb, accelerated by heart and lung-disease; and that said death was accelerated by taking ergot of rye whilst living with Mrs. Walker, certified midwife."

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held at the Offices of the Association, 161a, Strand, on Wednesday, the 8th day of January next, at Two o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE,

General Secretary.

161a, Strand, London, December 19th, 1878.

NORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH.

A MEETING of the above Branch will be held in the Belfast Royal Hospital on Friday, January 17th, 1879, at 12 o'clock noon.

Members desirous of reading papers are requested to communicate with

JOHN MOORE, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

2, Carlisle Terrace, Belfast, January 1st, 1879.

THAMES VALLEY BRANCH.

A MEETING of this Branch was held at the Greyhound Hotel, Richmond, on December 19th, 1878; the PRESIDENT, C. F. MAUNDER, Esq., in the chair.

Papers.—1. Dr. TILBURY FOX read a paper on Rodent Ulcer and its treatment, and afterwards exhibited some very interesting microscopical specimens illustrating its pathology.—The PRESIDENT and Dr. LANGDON DOWN took part in the discussion which followed.

2. Dr. FENN read a paper on Functional Nervous Disorders simulating Organic Disease.

Dinner.—The members and their friends afterwards dined together; the President in the chair, and Dr. Langdon Down in the vice-chair.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

SOUTH LONDON DISTRICT.

A MEETING for the formation of the South London District of the Metropolitan Counties Branch was held on December 17th, at 130, Stockwell Road, Brixton; Mr. JOHN WOOD, F.R.S., Surgeon to King's College Hospital, and President-Elect of the Branch, in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN, in his opening address, regretted the unavoidable absence (in Canada) of Dr. Andrew Clark, President of the Branch, but stated that it gave him personally much pleasure to be present as Dr. Clark's substitute. Adverting to the objects of the British Medical Association, he pointed out that they included all the subjects affecting the interests of the profession. As the most recent instance of the beneficial action of the Association, he pointed to the case of St. Thomas's Hospital, where a project had been set on foot for diverting a portion of the charity from its original purpose, which project he trusted that the prompt action of the Metropolitan Counties Branch had materially aided in defeating, or at least in causing to be reconsidered. The basis of the Association was broad and liberal, but the framework

required filling up. Outposts might be compared to the fine extremities of nerves, which must be kept well supplied with nourishment if the body politic were to be in good health. He trusted that by the formation of the South London District considerable strength would be added to the Metropolitan Counties Branch.

It was then unanimously agreed: "That it is desirable to form a district to be called The South London District of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association, and that such district is hereby formed."

By-laws.—The consideration of the proposed by-laws was proceeded with; and, after a discussion in which Dr. Henry, Dr. Grigg, Dr. W. Beach Johnston, Dr. J. W. Oswald, and Dr. J. C. Pearce took part, they were adopted as amended, subject to the approval of the Council of the Branch.

Secretary.—It was moved by Dr. HENRY, seconded by Dr. OSWALD, and unanimously resolved, that Mr. Nelson Hardy, who had been acting as Honorary Secretary *pro tem.*, be elected Honorary Secretary of the District.

A cordial vote of thanks was given to the Chairman for presiding; and the meeting adjourned.

EAST LONDON AND SOUTH ESSEX DISTRICT.

A meeting for the formation of a district comprising the eastern parts of London and a portion of South Essex was held at the Bow and Bromley Institute on Wednesday, December 18th, at 5 P.M. The chair was taken by John WOOD, Esq., F.R.S., who addressed the members.

A resolution in favour of the formation of the district was unanimously agreed to.

The By-laws were discussed, and, after amendment, approved.

Secretary.—Dr. Alexander Grant, of 370, Commercial Road East, was elected Honorary District Secretary.

Meetings.—After some discussion, monthly meetings were agreed on; and Dr. Rygate, Medical Officer of Health for St. George's-in-the-East, was appointed to take the chair at the first meeting, unless the President of the Branch should be able to attend.

NORTH LONDON DISTRICT.

This district was formed at a meeting held at the Holloway Hall, Upper Holloway, on Thursday, December 19th, at 8 P.M.; JOHN WOOD, Esq., F.R.S., President-Elect of the Branch, in the chair.

Secretary.—Dr. T. S. Dowse, of Tray's Hill Hall, was appointed Honorary District Secretary.

Next Meeting.—It was decided to hold the next meeting at the Holloway Hall on Thursday, January 30th; Dr. Sheehy to be Chairman.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT.

A MEETING of this district was held on December 12th, at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon; ALFRED CARPENTER, M.D., J.P., in the chair. Twenty members and visitors were present.

Papers.—The following papers were read.

1. Dr. WILLIAM ORD read a paper on Rheumatoid Arthritis clinically considered.

2. Dr. PHILPOT read for Dr. RICHARDSON Notes of Three Cases of Fractured Patella. The patients were exhibited.

3. Dr. DUNCAN read a paper on the Pathology of Spasmodic Affections.

4. Dr. PHILPOT read a paper on Some Causes of Typhoid Fever.

5. Mr. WILLIAM SOPER exhibited his Hospital and Portable Drain-Disinfectors.

Dinner.—Twelve members and one visitor sat down to dinner.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

PAY-WARDS IN HOSPITALS: THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

THE following resolutions were unanimously passed at a meeting of the Executive Council of this Branch on December 18th.

"That this Council cordially approves of the letter of Dr. Bristowe in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of December 7th, and desires to express its thanks to him (and also to his colleagues who supported him) for the able manner in which he has pointed out the objections to the scheme of the Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital with respect to paying patients."

"That the best thanks of the Council of the South-Eastern Branch of the British Medical Association are due and are hereby given to Sir Dominic Corrigan, Bart., the Rev. Dr. Haughton, and Mr. Rawdon Macnamara, for their earnest advocacy of the immediate reform of the constitution of the General Medical Council by direct representation of the members of the medical profession."

THE BRITISH MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND.

SIR,—I desire to acknowledge with sincere thanks the following additional donations and subscriptions to this fund.

A Friend, by Thomas Smith, Esq., F.R.C.S., Stratford Place ..	£20	0	0
W. J. Harris, Esq., Worthing ..	..	..	5 5 0
A. W. Wallis, Esq., Brentwood ..	..	..	1 1 0
Donations per D. De Berdt Hovell, Esq. ..	..	..	4 2 0
J. Croft, Esq., Brook Street ..	..	..	2 2 0

Yours faithfully, W. H. BROADBENT, Treasurer.
January 1st, 1879.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

PREMISES INJURIOUS TO HEALTH.

DR. BRISTOWE sends us a copy of an able report presented by him to the Camberwell Vestry, on the question whether a house rendered uninhabitable by reason of the abundant entrance of water through the roof is a nuisance within the meaning of the Nuisances Removal Act. It appears that Dr. Bristowe certified of such a house that it was a nuisance and injurious to health; that the Sanitary and Sewers Committee sanctioned the serving of a notice on the landlord under the Act, but afterward refused, on the ground that the non-repair of the house in question was a matter between the landlord and tenant, to enforce the order which was made with their authority. Dr. Bristowe argues with much force against the view of the Committee, which, if adopted generally in reference to unwholesome houses, would render the Sanitary Acts, so far as houses are concerned, a dead letter. He points out that rooms into which the rain is habitually pouring are nuisances and injurious to health in the highest degree, as this condition of things is one of the most fruitful causes of inflammatory affections of the lungs, of rheumatic fever, and of tuberculosis. Moreover, the insalubrity of the poorer houses in the parish depends largely on structural defects, which are in very great measure such as allow habitual soakage through the ceilings, through the walls, or from beneath. Evidently, this evil, dangerous and widespread as it is, cannot be considered merely as a question between landlord and tenant, and it is satisfactory to learn that the vestry have adopted this view, and have reversed the decision of the Committee.

MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE OLD REGIMENTAL SYSTEM.

"OLD SOLDIER" advocates a return to the old regimental hospital establishments. We hardly think it would be justifiable to print so long a letter on this worn-out theme. We feel sure he might as well advocate a discontinuance of monarchy and a return to heptarchy, as far as any practical result is concerned. Commanding officers of regiments are not now asking for regimental hospitals, knowing them to be inconsistent with present military arrangements; they are only trying to get a medical officer attached to each regiment for a fixed period—two or three years or so—to prevent the frequent changes to which they have been subjected of late in this respect. This is a reasonable request; but, in order to meet it, a considerable increase in the number of army medical officers would be necessary, with, of course, proportionate expenditure; and hence Horse Guards, War Office, and Treasury, are not at one on the subject. How this question will be settled remains to be seen.

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, December 26th, 1878.

Greensill, Joseph Moore, Great Whitley
Jewell, Charles Coleman, University College Hospital
Parry, Robert, Festiniog
Read, Edward Inskip, Stoke, near Devonport
Rusher, James Benjamin, Pershore, Worcestershire
Woolstencroft, Joseph, Northwich

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their primary professional examination.

Fairley, Samuel Barjona, Birmingham
Grindon, Francis James, Charing Cross Hospital

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.—At the examination held on December 9th, 1878, and following days, the undernamed gentlemen passed their final examinations for the Letters Testimonial of the College, and having made and subscribed the declaration, were admitted licentiates.

Wm. Theodore Atkinson, Jas. Robert Barton, Henry L. Battersby, John Cashin, Patrick Francis Cochlan, Daniel Corbett, Peter A. D'Alton, James Joseph Davis, Michael Donnelly, John Alexander Dockeray, Albert Justin Duffey, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Samuel Flood, Armitage Forbes, Simon K. Furney, James Joseph Harding, Richard C. Laffan, Edward L. Ledwich, Henry Lentaigine, Henry Love, John William Macnamara, Michael Joseph M'Coy, William Joseph Magee, Alfred Mason, John Mason, James M'Loughlin, George Mark Patrick Murray, Charles G. O'Connor, Walter Stephen Palmer, Thomas Heazle Parke, William Johnson Patton, Henry Pentland, Bernard Reddy, Denis Daniel Redmond, Charles Rorke, Edward James George Rothe, Thomas Sheedy, Henry William Smith, Henry George Stokes, Thomas Joseph Tobin, Charles Vokes, and H. L. Esmond White.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

BRISTOL GENERAL HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 4th instant.

BRISTOL GENERAL HOSPITAL—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be sent in on or before the 4th instant.

CELBRIDGE UNION—Medical Officer for Kilcock Dispensary District. Salary, £115 per annum, including £15 per annum as Sanitary Officer, but exclusive of Vaccination and Registration Fees. Election will take place on the 14th inst.

CLONMEL UNION—Medical Officer for Ballymacarby Dispensary District. Salary, £100 per annum, exclusive of Vaccination and Registration Fees. Applications to the 13th instant.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, London—Ophthalmic Surgeon. Applications up to Monday, the 6th instant.

LONFORD UNION—Medical Officer for Killashee Dispensary District. Salary, £120 per annum, including £20 per annum as Sanitary Officer, but exclusive of Vaccination and Registration Fees. Election will take place on the 14th inst.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

JONES, David J., M.B., C.M., appointed Junior Assistant Medical Officer to the Gloucestershire Lunatic Asylum.

KEBBLE, William, M.R.C.S., appointed Senior Assistant Medical Officer to the Gloucestershire Lunatic Asylum.

PENMAN, P. M., M.B., C.M., appointed Assistant Medical Superintendent to the Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, *vice* H. W. Mann, M.B., C.M.

THURNAM, F. Wyatt, M.B., C.M., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Metropolitan District Asylum, Caterham, Surrey.

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 announcements.

BIRTH.

PALMER.—On December 26th, at Durrow, Queen's Co., Ireland, the wife of John Richard Palmer, L.K. & Q.C.P.I., etc., of a son.

DEATHS.

CARRUTHERS.—On December 23rd, 1878, at Hulton House, near Runcorn, Cheshire, Isabel Sarah, the dearly loved wife of William Carruthers, Esq., M.R.C.S., aged 61 years.

EDWARDS, James, M.D., at Birchfield, Abernethy, N.B., on December 17th, 1878.

CAMPBELL, Edward Ellice, M.B., C.M., Parochial Medical Officer of Sleat and Ibraith, Isle of Skye, suddenly, from apoplexy, aged 23, on December 25th, deeply regretted, particularly by the poor.

MEDICAL MAGISTRATE.—Mr. John D. Harries, surgeon, was sworn in a justice of the peace for the borough of Shrewsbury on January 1st.

BEQUESTS.—The late Mr. William Cumming of Partick has left to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary £4,000; to the Western Infirmary £2,000; to the Convalescent Home £1,300; and to the Dunoon Seaside Homes £1,300.

PRESENTATION TO DR. CHRISTAL.—This gentleman having recently been appointed Medical Officer of Collon Dispensary District, Ardee Union, has, on leaving Greenock, been presented with an illuminated address and valuable gold watch, as a *souvenir* of the donors, and as a slight mark of their appreciation of his social qualities and professional worth.

PRESENTATIONS.—The Committee of Visitors of the Gloucester County Asylum have presented Dr. G. Hunter Mackenzie and Mr. W. H. Packer, the assistant medical officers, with £100 and £30 respectively, in token of their satisfaction with the manner in which these gentlemen conducted the Asylum during a period of eight months. Dr. Mackenzie has also received from the officers, attendants, and servants, a handsome silver tankard, with an illuminated address, expressive of their respect, esteem, and appreciation; and Mr. Packer has received a timepiece and writing-desk.

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 Orthopædic, 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 Orthopædic, 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 P.M.—Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Hospital for Women, 2 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.—St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department), 2 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. Lettsomian Lectures, by John C. Thorowgood, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lecture I: "History and Nature of Asthma".

TUESDAY.—Pathological Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Annual Meeting for Election of Officers.—The following specimens will be shown. Dr. Coupland: 1. Brain showing effects of extreme Congestion; 2. Chronic Pneumonia. Dr. Buchanan, for Mr. W. H. Power: On the Nature of certain observed relations between Diphtheria and Milk. Mr. A. H. Smee: Notes upon Garget. Mr. James Adams: Tumour of the Breast. Dr. F. Taylor: Spinal Cord from a case of Infantile Paralysis. Dr. R. Crocker: Warty Growth in the Tricuspid Valves, with Mitral Stenosis, in a Child.

WEDNESDAY.—Hunterian Society, 7.30 P.M.: Council Meeting. 8 P.M.: Dr. Buzzard, "On Cases of Syphilitic Affection of the Nervous System".

FRIDAY.—Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Annual Meeting. Election of Officers. Dr. Cayley and Mr. Lawson, "Case of Intestinal Obstruction treated by Gastro-enterotomy". Mr. Heath, "Silver Catheter broken in Bladder". Dr. Southey, "Pleuritic Effusion treated by Capillary Drainage". Dr. Althaus, "Disease of Spinal Accessory Nerve".

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, are requested to communicate beforehand with the General Secretary and Manager, 161, Strand, 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, 161, Strand, W.C., London; those concerning business matters, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the General Manager, at the Office, 161, Strand, W.C., London.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

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

THE LIST OF MEMBERS.

THE General Secretary begs to acknowledge the receipt of letters from the following gentlemen, calling attention to errors which have accidentally occurred in the copying from the office-books, and printing, of the list of members published in last week's JOURNAL—viz., Dr. H. Airy (Blackheath), Dr. E. Haughton (Upper Norwood), Mr. S. Henson (Manchester), Mr. J. T. Mitchell (South Lambeth Road), Dr. J. M. Moir (Kirkmuir), Dr. T. H. Morton (Sheffield), Mr. J. P. Oates (Leamington), Surgeon-Major Ovens (Gortalea), Mr. G. S. Stansfield (Birkenhead), Mr. J. T. Vale (Bifdord, near Redditch), Mr. J. H. Wolstenholme (Rhyl). He thanks these gentlemen for their communications, which will be preserved, and utilised when the next opportunity occurs.

A. B. D.—We should think such a request very reasonable; but the success of a petition, of a jest, "lies in the ear of the hearer", and it is always a question worth considering how far it is intended to press such a matter. As a rule, it is not wise for an assistant or dependent of any kind to press a request which he knows to be unwelcome, unless he expects to get a practical result.

A BAR NOVELTY.

THERE is a comicality about the following advertisement which somewhat relieves its disgusting cynicism. It is cut from a theatrical paper.

"To Publicans.—A Bar Novelty, to be Let, during the Winter Months. Nelly, the Limbless Wonder, born entirely without Arms or Legs. A startling Novelty, and Two Years Old. Address."

CORRESPONDENTS are particularly requested by the Editor to observe that communications relating to Advertisements, changes of address, and other business matters, should be addressed to Mr. FRANCIS FOWKE, General Secretary and Manager, at the Journal Office, 161, Strand, London, and not to the Editor.

SOCIAL ESTIMATION OF THE PROFESSION.

NIMIUM VICINUS writes:—If it be not too late, I should wish to endorse most heartily some pregnant remarks made by your correspondent Dr. Williams of Fulham Road. He goes straight to the root of the matter when he suggests that the profession must be in future recruited from the upper classes, who, as we all know, have hitherto been most unfairly debarred from serving in its ranks. This is surely a short and easy method of raising our social state; and I am surprised that you, in your editorial capacity, have allowed yourself to be forestalled in this brilliant suggestion by one of your correspondents. I call upon the British Medical Association to forthwith pass a resolution that none under the younger sons of baronets be eligible to enter the profession; then, perhaps, we shall have such polished gentlemen among us as Dr. Williams too often misses in his intercourse with his brethren. Again, how strongly, and yet not too strongly, he speaks of the evil custom among many medical men of dispensing their own medicines—a custom which, he rightly observes, brands the profession in the eyes of the upper ten, and must degrade us to the level of tradesmen. But what am I to think about a namesake and neighbour of Dr. Williams, whose professional plates figure prominently on the doors of a chemist's shop at 168, Fulham Road, and whose consulting-rooms are stated in large white letters to be within the establishment, which calls itself the South Kensington Dispensing Company. Dr. Williams would not, I am sure, in his noble zeal for the elevation of the profession, allow this to be a legitimate means of avoiding that evil custom which he has condemned so strongly. I would suggest that your correspondent speak to his namesake severely but kindly: the result might possibly be that "the upper ten" would not have so much reason to confound us with tradesmen, and a stumbling-block might be removed to their future entrance into our body.

M.R.C.S., L.S.A. writes:—It is possible that officers in the army, from being accustomed to the usages of refined society, may take exception to the manners of the more homely bred practitioner; but as regards mental acquirement, I feel sure that the medical man would stand far higher in the scale of being than the man of war; indeed, my experience in society has been to find the military officer extremely uninformed in general literature and science not especially pertaining to his vocation. The term "cad of a doctor" may or may not be highly improper; but that any man of experience can deny the existence of a considerable number of cads in our profession is, I think, impossible. My experience ranges over thirty years' practice, and it has been most disheartening to find, especially in the coal and iron-works practices in South Wales, that the "medical cad" flourishes, and the "gentleman in medicine" is laid at disadvantage. The one intrigues by consorting with and giving beer to his *confères* workmen; the other is at a disadvantage simply because, as a gentleman, he cannot degrade himself to the level of the other. Until we have some certain tangible rule in ethics, this state of things will last. I fancied that being a member of the British Medical Association would put a stop to this among its members; but, alas, no, and many a man can corroborate my statement. What shall be said of a man collecting a shilling a month and attending the men of his brother practitioner? and more, of attending tradespeople and their families at the magnificent sum of one shilling per month? Or what shall be said of another giving beer to the workmen attended by his brother practitioner, and openly intriguing for the appointment held by the other? These are truths, and under my own cognisance. I feel sure that until he who acts with honour and is a gentleman at heart shall be protected by law, no man of honour can be happy in practice, nor desirous that any son of his with the proclivities of a gentleman should enter it. Before ending, I would ask whether a surgeon (simply M.R.C.S. and L.M.) can undertake to attend, prescribe, and dispense medicines to a body of workmen without being liable to prosecution under the Apothecaries' Act? also whether the Apothecaries would undertake the prosecution? I ask this, because I am just now harassed by one of the order about which I have just been writing.

W. T. R. writes:—The dispensing of our own medicines I also feel to be not calculated to raise us in the estimation of the patient or public generally: it really lowers our dignity and respect in society. Its discontinuance would ensure to us more of that higher status which the medical profession is clearly entitled to occupy. Association and unity have done much to further the interests of medical men. I have spoken generally; but there are rocks ahead—a Scylla and Charybdis to country practitioners. I illustrate my rocks by facts which have happened to me within a very short time. Firstly, I called upon a chemist of a large town wherein are only two chemists. This man's shop was, to all appearance, the largest of the two, and doing a good trade. I asked for *pilula aloë et ferri (P.B.)*. He told me he had none, but had some *pilula ferri*. I again asked for a little liquor bismuthi et ammoniæ citratis. He replied that he was without it, but had some bismuth. The *Medical Directory* says there are practising here three surgeons, but there are really six, in a population of 12,869. Secondly, I prescribed one drachm of muriate of ammonia and three drachms of dilute nitro-muriatic acid in eight ounce mixture; two tablespoonfuls thrice daily. The directions for taking were two teaspoonfuls thrice daily. This man is notorious as a homeopathist. Thirdly, I have known extracts rubbed up to make tinctures. All these chemists have large shops, and do a good amount of business in paraffin oil, lamps, spirits, wines, sweets, patent medicines and plasters, and the like. Do chemists in country places dispense accurately? Will they? Can they? Many a practitioner like myself must have doubted his diagnosis in consequence of the remedies failing when made up at chemists' shops.

ERRATA.—In the JOURNAL of December 21st, page 921, column 2, the heading of the first case reported from the Birmingham General Hospital should be "Melano-Carcinoma", instead of "Melano-Sarcoma". In the JOURNAL of December 28th, page 257, column 2, line 13 of paragraph in "Incontinence of Urine in Children", for "two ounces", read "two drachms"; and line 30 of same paragraph, for "Farr", read "Power". At page 966, column 2, line 4 of the paragraph on "Accidental Poisoning by Carbolic Acid", for "recto-vaginal", read "recto-vesical".

COLD FEET.

MR. H. T. WHARTON (Kilburn) recommends the following remedy as simple and efficacious; indeed, combined with loose warm "sleeping-socks", it is infallible. Let the feet be dipped, or washed rapidly, in cold water, and immediately dried. Within two or three minutes of the patient's having got into bed after this, the reaction set up will have induced such an agreeable warmth as far more than compensates for the apparent heroism of the undertaking.