

Sir, I desire no washing of dirty linen in public, nor would I now elicit alienistic contributions to your newly-opened confessional; but if the work you have just commenced, and evidently mean to carry through, will only render for ever impossible a repetition of such articles as those in the *World*, you will contribute to the real advancement of medicine, and earn the gratitude of many of its potential victims.

In thus stating my conviction of the soundness and truth of the conclusions adopted by that writer, I beg distinctly to state that this is my last say on the subject, and that any prolongation of the controversy that seems to have already arisen in your columns, must be conducted without the co-operation of, sir, yours, etc. A MEDICAL MAN.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

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.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: EAST LONDON AND SOUTH ESSEX DISTRICT.

THE next meeting of this District will be held at the Bow and Bromley Institute (Committee Room, No. 4), on Tuesday, January 21st, at 5 P.M.:
DR. ANDREW CLARK, President of the Branch, in the Chair.

Business:

1. Address by President.
2. District arrangements.
3. Proposal regarding a regular alternation of meetings with other districts.

Members desirous of reading papers at any meeting, or of bringing forward interesting cases are requested to communicate with

A. GRANT, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.
370, Commercial Road, E., January 13th, 1879.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SOUTH LONDON DISTRICT.

THE next meeting of this District will be held at Bethlem Royal Hospital, St. George's Road, S.E., on Wednesday, January 22nd, at 8 P.M.:
DR. ANDREW CLARK, President of the Branch, in the Chair.

The following papers will be read.

1. Neuroses of the Heart, by J. Milner Fothergill, M.D.
2. The Amendment of the Medical Act (1858), by R. H. S. Carpenter, L.R.C.P.Lond.

Members desirous of narrating cases are requested to communicate with the *Honorary Secretary* without delay.

All members of the Branch are entitled to attend these District meetings.
H. NELSON HARDY, *Honorary Secretary*.

The Grove, Dulwich, S.E., January 6th, 1879.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE third meeting of this Branch will be held at the Bristol Museum and Library, at the top of Park Street, Bristol, on Thursday, January 23rd, at half-past Seven o'clock in the evening: HENRY HENSLEY, M.D., President, in the Chair.

EDMUND C. BOARD, *Honorary Secretary*.

Clifton, January 6th, 1879.

DUBLIN BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held in the Hall of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, Kildare Street, on Thursday, January 30th, 1879, at 4 P.M. Mr. PORTER, Surgeon Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland, President of the Branch, will deliver an address; and the officers and Council for the ensuing year be elected.

By the kind permission of the President and Fellows, the annual dinner will also be at the College of Physicians at 7 P.M. on the day of the meeting; the incoming President of the Branch, Dr. GORDON, ex-President of the College of Physicians, in the Chair.

Members purposing to be present at the dinner, and those also wishing to invite guests, are requested to intimate their intention to the *Honorary Secretary* on or before the 28th instant. Dinner-tickets purchased before that date, 15s.; after the 28th, £1. Guests' tickets, £1.

GEORGE F. DUFFEY, M.D., *Hon. Secretary*.

30, Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin, January 7th, 1879.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE fifth annual meeting of this Branch was held on Thursday, October 31st, 1878, at the Swan Hotel, Stafford; present, Dr. ARLIDGE, President, and thirty-two members. The President introduced his successor, Mr. E. F. WESTON of Stafford, who then took the chair.

Vote of Thanks.—Mr. R. GARNER proposed: "That the best thanks of this meeting be given to the retiring President for his services during the past year." This was seconded by Mr. JOHN HARTILL, and carried unanimously. Dr. ARLIDGE acknowledged the compliment.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were elected members of the Branch: Mr. J. Alfred Masters, The Mount, Hednesford; Dr. S. J. Smith, Bilston; Dr. Joseph Hunt, Wolverhampton; Mr. J. G. Clendinnen, Caseley.

President's Address.—The PRESIDENT delivered an address upon the Abnormalities of the Human Body in Relation to the Doctrine of Evolution. In illustration of certain points of his address, Mr. Weston was enabled, through the kindness of Professor Struthers of Aberdeen, to produce some valuable preparations. Amongst others, there were some well-marked specimens of the supracondyloid process in man, which have been rendered particularly interesting by the investigations and writings of Dr. Struthers.

Mr. FOLKER proposed that a cordial vote of thanks be given to Mr. Weston for his address.—Mr. REGINALD HARRISON (Liverpool) seconded the motion, and it was carried with applause.

Report of Council.—Mr. VINCENT JACKSON read the annual report as follows.

"Your Council, as on previous occasions, has again the great pleasure of reporting most favourably of the progress of the Staffordshire Branch; for, not only from a numerical point of view is it an important Branch of the British Medical Association, but more than ever it is being recognised as occupying the position, and in consequence possessing the prestige and authority, of the medical society of the county. To attain as well as deserve the latter distinction, it will be necessary to increase the numbers of its members; and it is hoped that those who have already joined will use their influence with others, so that, of the two hundred and fifty medical practitioners of Staffordshire, at least two hundred may become enrolled. During the past year, twelve new names have been added to the list, raising the total to one hundred and fifteen; three, on account of removal, have withdrawn, and one has died. The death of Dr. Cotterill was a mournful event: he was early and suddenly cut off—a loss to his family and a loss to his patients. The work of his earlier years was beginning to bear fruit, and his future success appeared not only to be assured, but likely to be complete and lasting. He was one of the original members of the Branch, and he ever evinced an interest in, and an activity for, its welfare. His cheery countenance and pleasant manner will long be missed by those who knew and liked him.

"At the last annual meeting, Mr. W. H. Folker was especially requested to examine and audit the accounts of the Society, and to report upon its financial condition. Mr. Folker presented his report at the next ordinary meeting, and in consequence certain changes in the executive of the Branch was determined upon; the office of treasurer was abolished, and a financial secretary appointed. To give legal effect to these recommendations, alterations in Rules 4, 9, 11, and 13 were required; these were unanimously adopted. Time has proved the wisdom of these alterations, inasmuch as, for the first occasion in the history of the Branch, a balance in its favour will be announced.

"The usual number of ordinary meetings have been held during the past year, and the following gentlemen have by their contributions earned the thanks of your Council: Dr. Johnson, Mr. Alcock, Mr. Folker, Mr. Vincent Jackson, Dr. J. H. Tylecote, Mr. R. Garner, Mr. L. Tait, Mr. J. Hartill, Dr. Millington. At the ordinary meetings, which were held in the towns of Stafford and Wolverhampton, the attention of the members was given to the consideration of the Dental Practitioners' Bill and the Medical Acts Amendment Bill; and, in consequence of certain objectionable clauses in each, petitions in opposition to both were numerous signed, and directed to be forwarded to the House of Lords and to the House of Commons. This was accomplished through the courtesy of the Earl of Dartmouth and the kindness of Mr. Staveley Hill, Q.C., M.P. Mr. Ralph Goodall having resigned his position as one of the honorary secretaries, Mr. J. G. U. West of Stoke-upon-Trent was elected to fill the vacancy.

"In conclusion, your Council hope that the active medical work of many of the members will not diminish, and that all will strive to obtain in future, if possible, even better results than the past has yielded."

The adoption of the report was moved by Dr. DAY, seconded by Mr. SPANTON, and carried.

Financial Statement.—Mr. FOLKER (auditor) read the statement of accounts for the past year, which showed a balance of £3 14s. 7d.

Next Annual Meeting.—Mr. J. H. TYLECOTE proposed that the next annual meeting be held at Walsall. This was seconded by Dr. TOTHERICK, supported by Mr. SHARP, and agreed to.

Election of Officers for 1878-79.—The following were elected: *President-Elect:* J. H. Tylecote, M.D. *Vice-Presidents:* W. Millington, M.D.; J. T. Arlidge, M.D. *Honorary Secretaries:* Vincent Jackson, Esq.; J. G. U. West, Esq. *Council:* F. Boldero, Esq.; Henry Day, M.D.; E. Fernie, M.D.; W. H. Folker, Esq.; F. J. Gray, Esq.; H. M. Morgan, Esq.; C. Orton, Esq.; J. J. Ritchie, Esq.; G. G. Sharp, Esq.; J. V. Totherick, M.D.; E. T. Tylecote, M.D.; J. K. Wynne, Esq. *Representatives in the Council of the Association:* J. Alcock, Esq.; H. Day, M.D.; W. H. Folker, Esq.; J. T. Hartill, Esq.; D. H. Monckton, M.D.; W. D. Spanton, Esq.; J. Y. Totherick, M.D.

Votes of Thanks were passed to the secretaries and auditor.

Dinner.—The members, to the number of thirty, dined together at the close of the meeting.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

URBAN MORTALITY IN 1878.

THE publication of the Registrar-General's return for the fifty-second week of 1878 completes the mortality statistics of London and of nineteen other large English towns for that year. In anticipation of the issue of the Registrar-General's detailed annual summary a month or two hence, it will not be without interest briefly to consider and compare the public health of these towns in 1878, judged by their mortality statistics for the fifty-two weeks ending last Saturday. In these twenty towns, 175,160 deaths were registered during the year, showing an increase of rather more than fifteen thousand upon the number returned in the same towns in 1877; these deaths were equal to an annual rate of 24.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population, against but 23.5 and 22.6 in 1876 and 1877. The death-rate in London was equal to 23.5; whereas, in the nineteen provincial towns, having an aggregate population slightly exceeding that of London, the death-rate was 24.9. The rate from the seven principal zymotic diseases in the twenty towns during last year was equal to 4.4 per 1,000; in London, this zymotic rate was 4.1, and in the nineteen provincial towns was 4.6 per 1,000. The fatality of whooping-cough was greater than in any recent year, especially in London; and infantile summer diarrhoea was more fatal than in any year since 1873. The deaths from measles, scarlet fever, and fever were below the average, but those from diphtheria were proportionally more numerous than they have been for many years. The fatal cases of small-pox in the twenty towns were 1,433, against 1,700 and 3,041 in 1876 and 1877; of these 1,433, no fewer than 1,416 occurred in London, while only 17 were recorded in the nineteen provincial towns, including five in Birmingham, three in Liverpool, two in Norwich, and one each in seven other towns. No death from small-pox occurred during 1878 either in Brighton, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Bristol, Leicester, Nottingham, Leeds, or Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Indeed, the fatality of small-pox was unprecedentedly small in these nineteen provincial towns. Portsmouth, during last year, showed, among the twenty towns dealt with in the Registrar-General's weekly return, the lowest rate of mortality—19.0 per 1,000. The rates in the nineteen other towns, ranged in order from the lowest, were as follow: Leicester, 20.8; Nottingham, 21.0; Brighton, 21.2; Bristol, 21.4; Bradford, 22.4; Wolverhampton, 23.3; London, 23.5; Leeds, 23.8; Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 23.8; Hull, 24.3; Norwich, 24.6; Sheffield, 25.0; Plymouth, 25.3; Birmingham, 25.6; Salford, 25.6; Sunderland, 25.6; Oldham, 25.8; Manchester, 27.9; and Liverpool 29.4 per 1,000. The proportionally excessive fatality of enteric fever in Portsmouth, and the excessive mortality from infantile summer diarrhoea in Leicester, did not prevent these towns from showing the two lowest general death-rates in 1878.

Zymotic fatality caused the high death-rates in Sheffield, Birmingham, Salford, Sunderland, Oldham, and Liverpool, in each of which towns scarlet fever was severely epidemic during the latter portion of the year. The high rate in Manchester does not appear to have been to the same extent due to the fatality of zymotic diseases.

The rate of infant mortality during last year in the twenty towns, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year to births, was

equal to 172 per 1,000; whereas it had not exceeded 166 and 154 per 1,000 in 1876 and 1877. The increase of infant mortality in 1878 was mainly due to the exceptional fatality of summer diarrhoea and of whooping-cough. In London, the rate of infant mortality was equal to 164 per 1,000; whereas, in the nineteen provincial towns, it was 180; in 1877, these figures were respectively only 146 and 154 per 1,000. On the whole, the mortality statistics of our largest English towns for 1878 bear unfavourable comparison with those for the two preceding years: a result due in great measure to the fact that the temperatures both at midsummer and at Christmas were more than usually "seasonable".

OBITUARY.

R. W. TIBBITS, M.B., M.R.C.S.,

SENIOR SURGEON TO THE BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY; LECTURER
ON SURGERY AT THE BRISTOL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

IT is with great regret we announce the premature decease of this distinguished provincial surgeon—and our associate—on 24th November last.

Born in 1842, Robert William Tibbits received his early medical education in Bristol. He became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1863, subsequently graduated at the Aberdeen University, and in 1868 was elected Surgeon to the Bristol Royal Infirmary. In the same year, he became Lecturer on Anatomy at the Bristol Medical School. In these public positions, Mr. Tibbits found vent for the remarkable energy of purpose and professional enthusiasm which distinguished him as a student. He soon made for himself a name as a courageous and skilful surgeon, a painstaking and successful teacher, and a man of entire devotion to duty and hard work.

Two months before his death, Mr. Tibbits was seized with paralysis. The attack, though serious, was not thought likely to end fatally, and it was even believed that, with youth and a fine constitution in his favour, he might throw off every sign of paralysis. A second seizure, however, occurred, and he never rallied from the coma which immediately ensued.

The funeral was largely attended by the profession of the district, and all classes united in mourning the abrupt and untimely ending of a career of no common promise, and of a life—only too short—of earnest and untiring labour for the good of humanity.

At the November meeting of the Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Society, Dr. Brittan, Senior Consulting Physician to the Bristol Royal Infirmary, thus bore testimony to Mr. Tibbits's professional qualities and personal character.

"I have known him for now nearly twenty years; first, as a pupil remarkable for earnest devotion to the studies of his profession; later on—at the early age of twenty-six—I welcomed him to the Infirmary as my colleague, and soon became convinced that he possessed all the qualities necessary for the making of a great surgeon. Taking advantage of every opportunity, as his enduring love for his profession led him to do, and having now all that was wanted—experience and practice—he soon began to show his peculiar excellencies in the wards and operating theatre. Active and strong, with indomitable energy, bold and unhesitating—he had that courage which is engendered only by self-reliance based on experience. But he was cautious and considerate to a remarkable degree; in fact, I have often been struck by the extensive and varied appliances at hand, when he was performing any grave operation, with which he was prepared to meet any possible accident or contingency. Nor did he rely on his own experience only, for he was an industrious reader of the literature of his profession generally. The prominent parts in his character to which I have alluded as so valuable to him as a surgeon, were displayed, as might be expected, in ordinary life. He was a man of strong opinions—not held without due consideration—enunciated and maintained with a vigour and determination as disinterested as outspoken. Nor should we be surprised to find, as many of us know was the case, that, underlying all these, was an infinite kindness and tenderness, and an ever-ready sympathy with suffering and distress. He was not a man who wore his heart on his sleeve; and so it might be said of him that he had more acquaintances than friends, for, where he loved, he loved entirely and well.

"In his death, at the age of thirty-six, his patients have lost one who never failed to inspire confidence in the hour of anxiety; our society, a diligent and earnest working member; and our profession, one of its most useful and brilliant members."

A movement is on foot to raise a lasting memorial to Mr. Tibbits, in the form of a scholarship or prize for annual competition amongst the students of the Bristol Infirmary.

JOHN BIRT DAVIES, M.D., F.R.C.P., J.P.,
FORMERLY SENIOR PHYSICIAN TO THE QUEEN'S HOSPITAL,
BIRMINGHAM.

THIS eminent physician, one of the oldest members of the Association, died at his residence, Edgbaston, Birmingham, on December 11th. Of Welsh extraction, he was born at Nately-Scures, Hampshire, on May 30th, 1799. He graduated as a doctor of medicine at the University of Edinburgh in 1822, and he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1859. When he had taken his degree, he settled in practice in Birmingham, and he was soon appointed physician to the General Dispensary. During his earlier years, he was defeated in more than one contest for the office of physician to the General Hospital; he sought election for the last time in 1835, when he was beaten by the late Dr. Evans. His failure was probably largely due to his ardent devotion to local politics. Dr. Davies joined Mr. Sands Cox and Dr. Edward Johnstone in establishing the Birmingham Royal School of Medicine, which was afterwards developed into Queen's College, and in which he held for many years the chair of Forensic Medicine. As a lecturer, he discharged his duties with characteristic zeal and fidelity. When the Queen's Hospital was opened in 1844, in connection with Queen's College, he was chosen as one of the first three physicians, and he remained senior physician to the charity until 1860.

Forty years ago, when he was in active practice as a physician, Dr. Davies was one of the leaders of the local Liberals. He prominently shared in the labours of his party, which resulted in the incorporation of the Borough of Birmingham in 1839. He was elected by the Town Council as the first coroner, and he was included in the first list of borough magistrates. In 1875, he resigned his coronership. In his letter of resignation he wrote: "On the 29th of May last, terminated the thirty-sixth year during which I have performed the duties of the office, and on that day, too, I completed the seventy-sixth year of my age."

During his long and honourable judicial career, he devoted himself to his onerous duties with conspicuous ability and singular industry. Throughout the whole of his prolonged tenure of office as coroner, for thirty-six years, he never slept out of the borough, or took a holiday, or appointed a deputy. He presided over no fewer than thirty thousand consecutive inquests. He was gifted with robust health and indomitable energy. He retained his ordinary vigour, notwithstanding his advanced age, until a few months ago. Last summer, his strength began to fail, and for three or four weeks before his death he was confined to his house, his life ebbing gently and painlessly away. During his illness, he was faithfully attended by his old friend Mr. Oliver Pemberton.

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 the 8th instant; and, when eligible, will be admitted to the pass examination.

Messrs. Timothy A. J. Shepherd, James C. Pincott, and Herbert G. Stacey, students of Guy's Hospital; George A. Branson, Herbert Faulkner, and Alfred G. Chitty, of University College; Simpson Powell and Ranald W. E. H. Nicholson, of King's College; Robert N. Hormazdj, of St. Mary's Hospital; Thomas W. Aird, of the Dublin School; Thomas F. Brunton, of the Cambridge School; John R. Seymour, of the London Hospital; Francis E. Allen, of the Bristol and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals; and Henry S. Smith, of the Bristol School.

Six candidates having failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Board were referred to their studies for three, and in one case six months.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.—At the Michaelmas Term Examination for the Degree of Bachelor in Medicine, held in Trinity College on Monday and Tuesday, December 2nd and 3rd, 1878, the successful candidates were arranged in the following order of merit.

John R. Yourdi, Charles O.G. Gubbins, Thomas T. Moore, Edmund H. Myles, Henry W. Murray, West Wilson, William Deane-Freeman, Fausset M. Baker, Ashley J. Westby, Robert C. Gage, Henry Love.

At the examination for the Degree of Bachelor in Surgery, held on Monday and Tuesday, December 9th and 10th, the following candidates were successful, the names being arranged in the order of merit.

Fausset M. Baker, Charles O.G. Gubbins, Reynolds P. Hetherington, Joseph R. Yourdi, Joseph Gibson, Edmund H. Myles, William Deane-Freeman, Ashley J. Westby, Arthur J. Campbell, Robert C. Gage.

At the examination for the Diploma in State Medicine, held on Thursday, December 12th, and following days, the diploma was granted to

Hall, James C.. M.B., B.Ch., Univ. Dubl.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, January 2nd, 1879.

Dixon, Francis, Eastwood, Nottingham
Martland, Edward William, Standish, near Wigan
Parke, Thomas Henry, Tideswell, Sheffield
Redmond, John, Grange, Loughgall, Ireland
Webb, Charles Alfred, 38, Brompton Square

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

Dobrashiam, Gabriel Sukias, London Hospital
Gaylor, Norman Edward Johnson, Guy's Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Medical Superintendent. Salary, £130 per annum, with furnished apartments, board, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 23rd instant.

CELBIDGE 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.

CLOGHEEN UNION.—Medical Officer for Ardfinan Dispensary District. Salary, £110 per annum, and £15 per annum as Sanitary Officer, together with Vaccination and Registration Fees. Election will take place on the 20th instant.

HEREFORD GENERAL INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 27th instant.

INVERNESS DISTRICT ASYLUM.—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £80 per annum, with bed, board, and washing. Applications to be made on or before February 8th.

LIMERICK UNION.—Resident Apothecary (or Pharmaceutical Chemist) to Limerick Workhouse. Salary, £150 per annum and apartments, with fuel and light. Applications from candidates, who must not exceed forty years of age, will be received to the 15th 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.

MELTON MOWBRAY UNION.—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Waltham District. Salary, £40 per annum, and fees. Applications to be made on or before the 15th instant.

SETTLE UNION.—Medical Officer for the Workhouse at Giggleswick. Salary, £25 per annum.—Medical Officer for the Settle District. Salary, £25 per annum. Applications to be made on or before the 20th instant.

WHITECHAPEL UNION.—Assistant Medical Officer to the Infirmary. Salary, £150 per annum, with furnished apartments, coal, gas, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 20th instant.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

BRIDGES, Ashley C., L.S.A., appointed Assistant House-Surgeon to the Cumberland Infirmary, vice G. D. Pidcock, B.A., L.R.C.P.Ed., resigned.

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.

FOX.—On December 22nd, 1878, at The Grove, Great Baddow, Essex, the wife of *Cornelius B. Fox, M.D., Medical Officer of Health for East, Central, and South Essex, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

EVANS, Thomas Walter, M.R.C.S.Eng., of 101, Heyworth Street, Liverpool, and of Llwyn Hiriarth, Cemmaes, Montgomeryshire, in the 32nd year of his age, on December 15th, 1878.

FLEISCHMANN.—At Florence, on the 15th ult., Florence Jane, the deeply beloved wife of Alfred Fleischmann, Esq.

METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY.—An ordinary meeting of the Society will be held at 25, Great George Street, Westminster, on Wednesday, the 15th instant, at 7 P.M. At 7.15 P.M., the annual general meeting will be held, when the Report of the Council will be read, the election of officers and council for the ensuing year will take place, the president will deliver his address, and the testimonial album will be presented to Mr. Symons.

PRESENTATION.—A testimonial has been presented to Mr. Cooke of Scarborough, on resigning the post of Surgeon to the Dispensary. The testimonial consisted of a purse of £340, together with a silver salver, on which was the following inscription:—"Presented, with a purse containing £340, to R. B. Cooke, Esq., B.A., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.E., by a number of his friends, in recognition of his services to the Dispensary and other public institutions in Scarborough, and as a token of their personal regard. Christmas, 1878."

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 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. Dr. Althaus, "Contributions to the Pathology of Peripheral Nerve-Diseases".

TUESDAY.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Mr. W. B. Dalby, "On Disease of the Mastoid Bone"; Dr. E. T. Sparks and Dr. Mitchell Bruce, "On the Effect of Diet, Rest, Exercise, etc., on Chronic Nephritis".

THURSDAY.—Harveian Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Osman Vincent, "On Talipes Varus".

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.

CROUP AND DIPHTHERIA.

SIR,—I shall be glad if any of your readers will inform me how far their experience coincides with mine in reference to the forms of croup or diphtheria they have met with during the last thirty years. During that time, I have met with the following types of disease.

1. A child is attacked with dry ringing laryngeal cough, followed by difficulty of breathing, gradually increasing till it ends in complete asphyxia. I have found tartrate of antimony in emetic doses and leeching the throat the treatment which has yielded the best results in these cases. This type of disease I have always considered to be true croup.

2. I have seen cases in which the back of the fauces was covered with a deposit like wet grey blotting paper. No treatment seemed of any avail, and the patients sank exhausted. This form of disease I have regarded as diphtheria.

3. I have often seen cases of sore-throat in which the surface of the tonsils was covered with spots of a white substance like little bits of curd. When these have come off, they have left a raw spot behind. I have given chlorate of potash in these cases. They never gave any trouble, and got well in a few days.

4. I have lately seen two cases in which there were similar patches, only a little larger, on the tonsils, but attended with fever and difficulty of breathing, and terminating in fatal asphyxia in a few hours.

I do not know very well what to make of this last type. Has it any connection with the aphthous sore-throat No. 3, or is it another form of diphtheria? What is the best treatment for it?—I am, etc.,

ALEX. W. WALLACE, M.D.

Parsonstown, December 27th, 1878.

WE have to thank numerous correspondents for the kindly worded New Year's greetings and congratulations included in this week's letters, and trust that this sincere acknowledgment of these welcome courtesies will be permitted, under circumstances of much pressure, to take the place of more formal separate acknowledgment.

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.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS FOR THE ARMY.

SIR,—Would you kindly inform me, by answer in the *JOURNAL*, in the examination for entrance to the army, what books are necessary for the examination in French, German and chemistry, geography and zoology?—Yours truly,

Meadow Bank, Heywood, near Manchester, December 31st, 1878.

. We learn, on inquiry, that no books have been prescribed. The examination in languages, which is voluntary, embraces translation and conversation in the language which is the subject of examination. The examination in chemistry is chiefly pharmaceutical. There is no special examination in geography or zoology: these subjects are included in the examination in "Natural History and Physics", which is also a voluntary one.

UNQUALIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANTS.

SIR,—I have read with interest the letter which appeared in your *JOURNAL* of the 14th instant from the pen of "A Quarter Sessions Chairman", and regret to say that I cannot conceive how a gentleman educated as I expect he is, a gentleman who ought to possess all the collected wisdom of the human race—in fact, "the man in possession", could have so wasted your columns and his time by the revival of a subject which on most occasions is considered as the produce of a corrupted and biased mind. Of course, on the present occasion I cannot, nor even would I dare, accuse your learned correspondent of that; however, as an amateur phrenologist, I would suggest that there is a certain bump which requires elevating in proportion to its evident diminished state; that done, the results arrived at from his reasoning power would be simply marvellous, and most certainly contradictory to his present erroneous views: for, in saying that unqualified medical assistants are degrading to the profession and injurious to the public, he commits an error which is quite opposed to the common sense of an evidently better informed community, and betrays great ignorance on the subject. That such sweeping assertions are erroneous, I am fully prepared, on behalf of unqualified assistants, to contradict, and to show ample proof to the contrary, in order that your correspondent may read, learn, and inwardly digest them, and so keep pace with the growing intelligence of the people. What is an unqualified medical assistant? Are the majority of these men capable of performing the duties they undertake? Let us inquire, and, if possible, arrive at a just conclusion.

The Study required for the L.S.A.		The Education (Collegiate, Hospital, and otherwise) which I have received up to the present date.	
Practical chemistry, botany, materia medica and pharmacy, morbid anatomy ..	Each 3 months	Practical chemistry .. Materia medica and pharmacy .. Botany .. Morbid Anatomy ..	Six months Six months Six months Included in hospital
Anatomy & physiology	Each 12 months	Anatomy & physiology .. Chemistry .. Clinical medicine .. Medicine .. Midwifery .. Cases of labour .. Forensic medicine .. Hospital Practice .. Vaccination ..	Each 12 months Six months Fifteen months Six months Not yet attended Over 800 Not yet attended Fifteen months Have operated at least 300 times successfully
Hospital practice ..	Fifteen months	Practice as a pupil to a surgeon ..	Five years
Vaccination ..	Must show proof of instruction	Practice as an assistant to a surgeon ..	Nine years

From the above tabular view, you will readily perceive that not only should my ability be equal to that of the newly fledged two-years'-making L.S.A. (a time totally inadequate for such), but infinitely superior, inasmuch as I have had the additional advantage of fourteen years' practical experience under the superintendence of a general practitioner, which, I am sorry to say, candidates for that licence do not possess; therefore, why should I be degrading to the profession, or how injurious to the public, remains yet to be explained. This I know, however, that I have always paid my class-fees for the teaching of the true science and art of medicine and surgery, my premium as a pupil for the same. I believe I have been taught it; and now, as an assistant, I practise it, and hope to continue until I am enabled to gain the University distinction for which I have long striven.

Let your correspondent study reason in its nude form; let him uphold what is just and give assistants their dues, for a change is needed. It matters not how it may be effected, so that the mistake of those who uphold this rampant superstition shall become completely eradicated.

I must apologise, sir, if that I have written my letter to an inconvenient length for publication, but trust the importance of the subject will be my justification.—Yours, etc.,

Sheffield, December 24th, 1878.

SIR,—I do not intend to point a panegyric on unqualified assistants, but I most certainly record my sincere thanks for the able assistance I have often received from them. Qualified men are always desirable as assistants in all practices if you can get them or are able to afford them. In union practices they are especially useful, but the meagre pay of officials who dole out salaries does not often leave scope for a qualified assistant's salary; besides, I have too often failed in getting the qualified, and been compelled to take the unqualified. Now I honestly confess that I have found them, in most cases, wonderfully apt by experience and able almost for any emergency. The qualified man is scarce, often inexperienced, fresh from the college forms and full of crudities, having had no apprenticeship, nor filled any situation as an assistant, but gone from school to study his profession at some college, done his exact number of midwifery cases, attended a few months at some dis-