

surgeon, clad in the traditional costume of Father Christmas, limped through the wards (preceded by juvenile heralds), kicking before him an enormous "snowball", three or four feet in diameter. The curiosity of the children being excited, the "snowball" was cut open, and the contents—consisting of bundles of warm clothing labelled with the names of the patients—were distributed, each receiving two garments. The nurses, too, were not forgotten, each finding a suitable present in the "snowball". The Christmas trees, ablaze with the lights of numerous candles, were then stripped of their ornaments, each child receiving his or her share. There was also a large bran-bath, which went round to each bed, and the children dipped in for presents, much to their delight. Altogether there were between fifty and sixty people present, who dispersed themselves about the wards and thus prevented crowding. The whole entertainment seemed to have been conceived in a spirit of liberality and thoughtful consideration, and was carried out with joyous alacrity by the staff of nurses, under the direction of the lady superintendent and the energetic secretary, Commander Blount. None of the children on the following day were any the worse for their excitement. The recent death of the Royal lady, which has cast a gloom over the Christmas festivities of the whole country, was felt here. The Princess Alice Ward, instead of being decked with holly, was draped with violet, bearing beneath a cross the inscription in white letters, "Her price is above rubies", and a photograph of Her Royal Highness, presented to the hospital by herself.—On Saturday last, a treat was given to the out-patients, consisting of tea, a Christmas tree, and distribution of clothes to each child.

THE REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD FOR 1877.

At the moment of going to press, we have received a copy of the Annual Report of the Medical Officer to the Local Government Board for the year 1877. It is a valuable public document, extending to nearly four hundred pages, and contains numerous reports of very great and varied interest. The most important papers included in the volume appear to be a continuation of Dr. Ballard's treatise on Effluvium Nuisances; a memorandum by Mr. Netten Radcliffe on Levantine Plague in 1873 and part of 1874; a very elaborate and instructive study of Infectious Pneumo-Enteritis in the Pig, by Dr. Klein; and some further Researches in Chemical Biology by Dr. Thudichum. In addition to these are reprints of reports made during the year by Dr. Ballard, Mr. Power, and Mr. Radcliffe, on particular outbreaks of disease at Ascot, Winchester, and the *Cornwall* school-ship respectively; together with the usual tabular statements.

FEVER IN THE METROPOLIS.

THE Registrar-General states that during the year 1878 the weekly returns of the Metropolitan Asylums Board showed that 6,064 completed cases of small-pox, scarlet fever, enteric fever, and typhus were recorded in the several hospitals for infectious diseases under the management of that Board; these included 4,995 recoveries and 1,069 deaths, the average mortality being equal to 17.6 per cent. of the completed cases. The number of completed cases of small-pox were 4,762, among which the mortality was equal to 17.6 per cent., against 17.2 per cent. among the 7,242 completed cases recorded in these hospitals during 1877; in the Highgate Small-pox Hospital, the proportional mortality among the 422 completed cases recorded last year did not exceed 14.2 per cent. In the Metropolitan Asylum Hospitals, 503 completed cases of enteric fever were recorded during last year, against 280 and 334 in 1876 and 1877; the mortality, however, which was equal to 20.0 and 24.0 per cent. in 1876 and 1877, declined to 18.9 in 1878. The proportional mortality among the 316 cases of enteric fever recorded at Homerton did not exceed 15.8, while it was 24.1 per cent. among the 187 cases at Stockwell; in the London Fever Hospital, 103 completed cases of this disease were recorded, of which 14, or 13.6 per cent. were fatal. Of typhus, 203 completed cases were reported in the Metropolitan Asylum Hospitals in 1878, and the rate of mortality was equal to 23.2 per cent.; in 1876 and 1877, the typhus cases in these hospitals did not exceed 145 and 141 respectively, and the mortality was equal to 19.3 and 25.5 per cent. The recorded cases of scarlet fever in these hospitals in 1878 were 596, against 824 and 419 in the two preceding years; the mortality in 1878 averaged 15.1 per cent. in the two fever hospitals, and was equal to 12.4 at Homerton, and 18.7 at Stockwell. The rate of mortality both from enteric fever and scarlet fever at the Stockwell Hospital, compared with that which prevailed at Homerton, showed a marked excess. Among 398 scarlet

fever cases recorded last year at the London Fever Hospital, the mortality was only 10.6 per cent. During the year 1878, the average number of small-pox, scarlet fever, enteric fever, and typhus patients under isolation and treatment in the Metropolitan Asylum Hospitals was 602, of whom 405 suffered from small-pox, 101 from scarlet fever, 80 from enteric fever, and 16 from typhus. It is satisfactory to note, that the appreciation and use of these metropolitan infectious diseases hospitals is becoming more general. In 1876, the proportion of the total deaths from enteric fever in London occurring in these hospitals was 7.2 per cent., while it rose to 9.0 and 9.4 in 1877 and 1878; of the scarlet fever deaths in London, only 3.7 and 3.5 per cent. occurred in these hospitals in 1876 and 1877, whereas the proportion rose to 5.0 per cent. in 1878.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: NORTH LONDON DISTRICT.

THE next meeting of this District will be held at the Holloway Hall, Upper Holloway, on Thursday, January 30th, at 8 P.M.: ANDREW CLARK, M.D., President of the Branch, in the Chair.

The business of the meeting will be—

1. Address by the President.
2. Milk as a Food for Man. By John Gay, Esq.
3. Recent Improvements in the Steam Draft Inhaler. By R. J. Lee, M.D.

Members desirous of relating interesting cases, or of exhibiting specimens, etc., are invited to communicate with

THOMAS S. DOWSE, M.D., *Honorary Local Secretary*.

Tray's Hill Hall, Hornsey Lane, N., January 22nd, 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 in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland, President of the Branch, will deliver an address; and the officers and Council for the ensuing year will 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.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

AN intermediate meeting of this Branch will be held at the Athenæum, Bury, on Friday, February 21st, at 3.30 P.M.; LESLIE JONES, M.D., President, in the Chair.

Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson (London) will give an address on Syphilis as a Simulator.

Gentlemen who wish to read papers or show specimens are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary.

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

96, Mosley Street, Manchester, January 21st, 1879.

MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE next meeting will be held at Boston during February: President, A. MERCER ADAM, M.D.

Members desirous of reading papers are requested to communicate with

C. HARRISON, *Honorary Secretary*.

Lincoln, January 1879.

VACCINATION.—Mr. T. Torkington Bleas, of Altrincham, has received a gratuity (fourth award) of £31 15s. from the Local Government Board, for efficient vaccination in his district.—Mr. Henry P. Leech of Woolpit, medical officer to No. 2 district of the Stow Union, Suffolk, has received a Government grant of £10 13s. for successful vaccination. This is the fifth grant which Mr. Leech has received.

was probably drawn by his own infirmity, he published a large octavo volume on *Diseases of the Lungs and Heart*, which he dedicated to Louis, the great physician to the Hôtel Dieu, his teacher, and to W. Bowman, F.R.S., and W. Allen Miller, F.R.S., his own distinguished clinical pupils. This book, which attracted considerable attention and contains some chapters of remarkable merit, is an elaborate commentary upon a large number of cases observed by the author. Especial prominence is given to valvular diseases of the heart and thoracic aneurism. This work appeared in 1848, and in the same year Dr. Blakiston, compelled to seek a climate more congenial to his constitution, left Birmingham, where he had enjoyed a very considerable practice as a consulting physician, and removed to St. Leonard's-on-the-Sea, where he remained for many years busily engaged in professional work until he entered upon his retirement in London. A few months ago, he published an admirable little volume entitled *Clinical Reminiscences*, which was a reprint of some of his later contributions to periodical medical literature. This book, scholarly and refined in style, bears abundant evidence of the ripe judgment, sound reasoning, accurate observation, and elevated tone of feeling of its author.

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 16th instant, and when eligible will be admitted to the pass examination.

Messrs. William M. McL. Clapp, George Medcalf, Alfred A. Carr, and Edward H. Locker, students of University College; Walter H. H. Jessop, Henry A. J. Raymond, and Walter Gripper, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; James E. Smith and Harold A. Baines, of the Charing Cross Hospital; Philip A. D. Head, Lawrence T. Ward, and John W. Payne, of the London Hospital; Geo. M. H. Colman and Edwin J. White, of St. Thomas's Hospital; Alfred Bolton, of Guy's Hospital; Frank E. Roberts, of St. Mary's Hospital; Robert E. Durell, of King's College; Arthur W. Veness, of the Westminster Hospital; Joseph Harrison, of the Leeds School; and Charles T. Duce, of the Birmingham School.

Of the 149 candidates examined, 36 failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Board of Examiners, and were therefore referred to their anatomical and physiological studies for three months; and five for still greater ignorance were rejected for six months, in pursuance of a recent resolution of the Council.

The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations, were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 20th instant.

Benington, Robert, Peckham
Bridgeford, Walter A. S., Sheffield
Childs, Christopher, Uppingham
Davies, David S., Sheffield
Deakin, James, Sale, Cheshire
Hicks, Frederick J., Magdalen College, Oxford
Hughes, Thomas M., Bucknall, Hereford
Jones, Frederick F., Llanfyllin, Montgomeryshire
Liftwich, Charles H., Tuffnell Park
Lucas, Charles, Buswell, Cambridge
May, Thomas H., Dover Street, Piccadilly
Rigden, Brian, Canterbury
Russell, George H., Helston, Cornwall
Shaw, William, Broseley, Salop

The following gentlemen passed on the 21st instant.

Alban, Evan, L.S.A., Aberayron
Batly, William E. L., L.S.A., Birkenhead
Cheshire, Arthur C., Birmingham
Collington, John W., L.R.C.S. Edin., Merrick Square
Colt, Thomas A., Torquay
Cox, Llewelyn F., Bangor, North Wales
Dismore, Henry, L.S.A., Gravesend
Gwynn, Charles H., M.B. Edin., Whitchurch
Harrison, Arthur, L.R.C.S. Edin., Sheffield
Jones, Hugh P., Rhos, near Ruabon
Martin, Theodore, L.S.A., Evesham, Worcester
Morley, Edward J., L.R.C.P.L., Blackburn
Riley, James J. W., Birmingham
Robinson, Frederick, Ilkley, near Leeds
Saunders, William, L.S.A., Stockton-on-Tees
Smith, William H., Redditch
Taylor, William M., M.A. & M.B. Edin., Newcastle-on-Tyne
Thomas, William F., L.S.A., Madras
Ward, George J., L.R.C.P. Ed., Maidale Vale
Welsh, Samuel A., Kinmer, Worcestershire
Young, Williams H. F., Brighton

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, January 16th, 1879.

Corder, Sheppard Ransome, St. Margaret's, Ipswich
Hague, James Thompson, Kingston House, Southampton
Shaw, John, Richmond Terrace, Clapham Road

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

Tennant, William Drysdale, St. Thomas's Hospital
Vores, Arthur, St. Thomas's Hospital

KING AND QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN IRELAND.—At the examinations for the Licences of the College, held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, January 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th, 1879, the following candidates were successful.—For the Licence to Practise Medicine.

Lewellin, Augustus John Richard Thompson, Andrew Colquhoun
O'Shaughnessy, Patrick James Barry

For the Licence to Practise Midwifery.

Forster, Henry Blackett Johnston, John Reid
Gibson, Joseph O'Shaughnessy, Patrick James Barry
Gordon, Robert Thompson, Andrew Colquhoun

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

COOTEHILL UNION.—Medical Officer of Drum Dispensary District. Salary, £100 per annum, exclusive of Vaccination and Registration Fees; also, £25 per annum as Sanitary Officer. Election on the 27th 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.

KILKEEL UNION.—Medical Officer for Workhouse and Fever Hospital. Salary, £50 a year. Election on the 29th instant.

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

TIVERTON INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY.—House-Surgeon and Dispenser. Salary, £100 per annum, with furnished apartments, coals, gas, and attendance.

TUAM UNION.—Medical Officer for Abby Dispensary District. Salary, £120 per annum, £20 per annum as Sanitary Officer, together with the usual Vaccination and Registration Fees. Election on February 3rd.

WATERFORD UNION.—Medical Officer for Workhouse and Fever Hospital. Salary, £100 per annum. Election on the 29th instant.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

BRIDGES, Ashley C., L.S.A.L., appointed Assistant House-Surgeon to the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle.

BUCKLE, John, M.R.C.S. Eng., appointed Resident Medical Officer to the Children's Hospital, Brighton, *vice* W. Gilchrist Burnie, M.R.C.S. Eng., resigned.

***CARDEW, G. Arthur, M.R.C.S. Eng.,** Junior House-Surgeon to the General Hospital, Cheltenham, appointed House-Surgeon, *vice* David Hartley, M.R.C.S. Eng., resigned.

***EMMERSON, W. L., M.R.C.S.,** appointed Medical Officer for the Waltham District of the Melton Mowbray Union, and Medical Officer of Health for the same district.

HAMMOND, Thomas, L.R.C.P., appointed Assistant House-Surgeon to the Halifax Infirmary.

***HUTCHINSON, Thomas S., L.R.C.P. Ed.,** appointed Honorary Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.

LYONS, Isidor I., M.R.C.S., L.D.S., appointed Dental Surgeon to the Evelina Hospital for Sick Children.

***MACKINLAY, J. Grosvenor, L.R.C.P. Lond.,** appointed Assistant-Surgeon to 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 announcements.

BIRTHS.

BYRNE.—On January 17th, at the Tower, the wife of Theodore E. D. Byrne, J.P., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., etc. (of Elshieshiels, Dumfriesshire, and Drumness, Kirkcudbright), of a son and heir.

FLEMING.—At 10, Albany Place, Glasgow, on the 18th instant, the wife of William James Fleming, M.B., of a son.

MORIARTY.—On December 17th, 1878, at Umzuffarnagar, N.W.P., India, the wife of Matthew D. Moriarty, M.B., Civil Surgeon, of a son.

DEATH.

***STILWELL, George, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,** at his residence, Epsom, in his 74th year, on January 5th.

DEVON AND EXETER HOSPITAL, EXETER.—Mrs. B. Ravenhill, widow of the late Mr. Edmund Burton Ravenhill, Surgeon, of Wolverhampton, and formerly Matron of the Wolverhampton General Hospital, has been elected Matron of the Devon and Exeter Hospital.

At the Lambeth Police-Court, an oilshop keeper of Peckham was summoned for selling violet-powder which was not of the nature and substance and quality of the article demanded. For the Vestry of St. Giles, Camberwell, it was stated that there was no desire to press the case against the defendant, but to put a stop, if possible, to the sale of such adulterated articles. The defendant was fined 2s. and costs.

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. R. J. Lee, "Some Remarks on the Recent Improvements in the Steam Draft Inhaler"; Dr. Sansom, "On Heart-Disease in Children".

TUESDAY.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Gowers, "A Study of the so-called Tendon-Reflex Phenomena".

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.

Will "A Member" who last week applied for information respecting boarding for an invalid, kindly send his name and address to Dr. Henry, at the office of the JOURNAL? Several communications for him have been received.

MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

SIR,—Dr. A. and Dr. B. live in the same small country town, and are on as friendly terms as the following circumstances will allow. C., Esq., is Dr. A.'s patient; his wife, up to her death, some years ago, was Dr. B.'s patient. Dr. A. continues, as before the lady's death, to attend C., Esq. Dr. B. has not called to see C., Esq., for several years. Dr. A. is attending C., Esq. (who has become old and exacting) this Christmas, and, during a day or two that he, Dr. A., is confined to the house, Dr. B. calls for C., Esq., ostensibly to wish him the compliments of the season. Is Dr. B.'s conduct professional, or does it smack of the grocer's seeking "orders"? Dr. A. formerly willingly consented to meet Dr. B. in consultation about other patients till he discovered that Dr. B., after such consultations, called alone "to inquire for the patient", or, meeting relatives, made inquiries and such remarks as that the patient "might" or "ought to get well again". This particularly in a case of chronic Bright's disease which had advanced to the stage of hopeless arterial and cardiac changes! Was Dr. B.'s conduct professional or proper?—Yours very truly,

R. W. F.

* * Such conduct is highly unprofessional, and might fairly be made the subject of complaint.

MR. NASH.—Yes, medical fees are recoverable by law; but the London College of Physicians has a self-denying ordinance, such as prevails also at the bar, debarring its members and fellows from adopting legal process.

EXTENSION APPARATUS FOR THE LOWER LIMBS.

SIR,—In Dr. T. M. Greenhow's letter on "Extension Apparatus for the Lower Extremity", edited by Mr. W. Stokes's paper in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of December 14th, he inquires the date of Baron Boyer's screw-apparatus for treatment of fractures of the femur. I cannot give the exact date; but I have an old copy, dated 1804, of Boyer's *Lectures on Diseases of Bones*, edited by Richerand, and translated by the late Mr. O'Farrell of Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, containing an excellent account of the splint, and of its application, together with a very explanatory engraving.—Faithfully yours,

S. S. RODEN.

A COUNTRY CURATE might write to Mr. John Wood, King's College Hospital, London.

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.

LONG LETTERS.

OUR readers have suffered under the infliction of some very long letters. We have been loth to cut them down severely, as the discussion of the question of the prosecution of the persons who, in violation of the Apothecaries' Act, diagnose disease according to their lights across a counter, with such unabashed and irresponsible eye to the subsequent sale of medicine, is, in our opinion, a matter of really public and vital importance. The irresponsible counter-practice of medicine by mere pharmaceutical chemists, specially privileged as such by the State, is, in our opinion, an abuse of gigantic proportions, modern growth, and serious public danger. We give ample scope also to the vague declamations of Dr. L. S. F. Winslow, who has constituted himself the champion of private asylums. Such utterances are not likely to advance the reasonable claims of any class; and the most thoughtful and highly accomplished members of it are of course not to be supposed to be bound by the statements or opinions of their self-appointed spokesman. But, as Dr. Winslow has been referred to, we have allowed him very free scope. We must, however, point to the letters as examples rather to be avoided than to be imitated, as we have at the present moment a mass of communications to which we are unable to do justice, from want of space, from members of the profession, to whom we are always desirous of giving full opportunity of speech—not although, but we may perhaps venture to say because, they are not in all cases the "leaders" of the profession. These may always claim, and always receive, at our hands the special consideration due to their large opportunities and specially honourable offices; but we have much faith also in the *vox populi*: it is to the utterers of this voice that we at this moment plead for leisurely, calm, and condensed utterance; for we are bound to say that our most eminent correspondents and contributors are usually those who most rigidly regard these considerations in their communications.

DR. SIMMS.—To stitch or sew the JOURNAL would be contrary to the postal regulations.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. JAMES STOCKER.

SIR,—I write at once to correct a misstatement in your obituary of Mr. Jas. Stocker. Referring to the testimonial which was in progress at the time of his death, it is said: "This, we understand, for obvious reasons, has only met with lukewarm support." So far from this being the case, it has met with the warmest support; and hundreds of letters before me testify not only to the great respect in which Mr. Stocker was held by students of a former generation, but also to the benefit he conferred upon the school by his unpaid clinical teaching. The testimonial was intended as a compliment in recognition of his past services; and a suggestion was made by more than one subscriber, that it should take the form of a clinical prize, and thus be a record of his labours as a bedside teacher.

At the time of his death, about £200 had been already collected. The testimonial cannot now be presented in the personal form intended, but will be devoted to the benefit of his widow and family, who by his death are deprived of the support of his hospital pension. It is not improbable that many who would not subscribe to a merely complimentary testimonial during Mr. Stocker's life, may be inclined now to add their names to the list.

To those who so promptly responded to the circular, it may be agreeable to know that Mr. Stocker became aware that a testimonial had been started, and expressed the great pleasure it was to him to feel, in his retirement, that he was remembered by so many old students.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

St. Thomas's Street, S.E., January 1879.

R. CLEMENT LUCAS.

CONTAGIOUSNESS OF TYPHOID FEVER.

SIR,—Permit me in the JOURNAL to thank the eighty officers of health and other gentlemen who kindly replied to my circular on The Contagiousness of Typhoid.—I am your obedient servant,

W. THOMSON, M.D., Medical Officer of Health.

Peterborough, January 21st, 1879.

PREVENTION OF SMALL-POX.

SIR,—May I add one other suggestion to that of Dr. Stevenson on the prevention of future epidemics of small-pox (published in this week's JOURNAL)—viz., that re-vaccination at the age of about fifteen or twenty years be encouraged as much as possible? To make it compulsory by law would be well, but, I fear, out of the question.—I am, etc.,

F. W. STRUGNELL.

Small-Pox and Vaccination Hospital, Highgate, Jan. 18th, 1879.

AN ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following appears in the *Oldham Evening Express*:—"Dr. C. Albert Bestall, B.A., Surgeon, etc. (late assistant to and *locum tenens* for Dr. Prestwich), has commenced practice at 54, Mumps (nearly opposite the Manchester and County Bank). Consulting hours: Morning, 9 to 10; Afternoon, 2 to 3; Evening, 6 to 8.

A STRANGE INCIDENT IN PRACTICE.

SIR,—The cases reported by Dr. Edis in the JOURNAL of January 4th recall to my mind a somewhat remarkable case which occurred in my practice four years since. A lady coming from a city in the north of England took lodgings in this neighbourhood, and engaged me to attend her in her confinement, which was expected in about a fortnight. I was one night summoned to her in haste; but, after remaining an hour with her, I considered I might safely leave her till the morning. On the following morning, in course of conversation, she suddenly asked, "Do you think, doctor, it is possible I may not be pregnant after all?" I replied that I could soon satisfy her on that point if she would allow me. The examination proved that the uterus was in its normal condition, no evidence whatever of pregnancy existing. I assured her she might with safety pack up her goods and return to her home; at which, curiously, she seemed highly delighted, and a few days afterwards started on her journey northwards.—Yours faithfully,

GEO. MILES.

Plymouth, Devon, January 1879.