

hospitals, at least in surgical cases, and this in spite of the generally healthier constitution of the patients treated in them. If this be so, the only conceivable reason must be that the wounds are less carefully dressed. Long experience in hospital surgery has convinced the writer of this notice that cleanliness and drainage lie at the root of all successful treatment of wounds, and that in a well-ventilated hospital, not overcrowded, wounds are tolerably sure to do well under any system of dressing which is carried out carefully and by intelligent persons acquainted with surgery, and very likely to do badly if left chiefly to the nurses. The absence of students, the frequently perfunctory manner in which the important duties of house-surgeon are carried out, and it must be added (though this has, we are sure, no application to the staff at Lincoln) those of the surgeon also, are grave dangers in rural hospitals, when, as is sometimes the case, a change in the circumstances of the neighbourhood induces a rush of serious surgical cases. We have no doubt that the exclusive attention which our sanitarians have given to the mechanical arrangements of the hospital has thrown too much into the background the still more important part of hospital management to which we are now alluding. That it will not be overlooked at Lincoln, the high attainments of the surgical staff there are a sufficient guarantee; and this being so, we cannot doubt that in future they will have all the success which they so well deserve.

SELECTIONS FROM JOURNALS.

MEDICINE.

ANTISEPTIC TREATMENT OF EMPYEMA IN CHILDREN.—Dr. Göschel relates in the *Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift* for December 23rd four cases of empyema occurring in children aged respectively 1, 3½, 3½, and 4 years, in which he treated empyema by making incisions 3 *centimètres* (1.2 inches) long in an intercostal space (generally the sixth), under the carbolic acid spray, allowing the pus to escape, and then introducing drainage-tubes and applying Lister's antiseptic dressing. Chloroform was given to all except the youngest child. Dr. Göschel sums up as follows. 1. In slight cases of empyema in children, incision under Lister's antiseptic precautions is quite as quickly performed and as free from danger as paracentesis, while it is also less productive of trouble and more likely to lead to recovery. 2. In advanced cases, incision alone is indicated; and, performed under Lister's method, it is free from danger and from all trouble to the children. As washing out the pleural cavity with disinfectant solutions is unnecessary, there is no danger of poisoning with carbolic acid. 3. Fever is more surely avoided by employing Lister's method in the after-treatment than by the open dressing with washing of the pleura. The general condition improves rapidly. 4. When washing out of the cavity is avoided, the secretion diminishes more rapidly. 5. The introduction of ordinary drainage-tubes is sufficient; metallic cannulæ and resections of portions of the ribs are superfluous.

A NEW SYMPTOM OF IRRITATION OF THE FACIAL NERVE.—Dr. Leube describes (*Aerzt. Intellig.-Blatt*, No. 53) the case of a woman aged sixty-two, who had been suffering from spasmodic tic douloureux for two or three months. It began with conjunctivitis, which was followed by blepharospasm; the spasm then spread over other branches of the facial nerve. The platysma myoid was the first muscle affected by the spasm, then followed the other muscles of the face. The spasms were so violent that the patient declared she felt as if her whole lower jaw were being torn away. At first, there was profuse salivation, but this gradually decreased. The spasms were clonic bilateral, and extended to all the muscles supplied by the facial nerves, specially to the orbicularis palpebrarum and the platysma myoides. The paroxysms followed in quick succession, but sometimes ceased altogether for several hours. When the paroxysm reached its climax, the patient sometimes uttered a peculiar sibilant sound, which could be produced by drawing the soft palate upwards, at the same time contracting the uvula and performing expiration. It was, therefore, at once suspected that, even while the spasm lasted, the muscles of the palate were convulsively contracted. This supposition was verified by subsequent laryngoscopic examination during the spasm. If the tongue were slightly depressed, it was easily seen that, when the paroxysm was very violent, the palate, which until then had been apparently in a rather relaxed condition, suddenly was contracted and drawn upwards, and the uvula, contracting also, almost disappeared. Dr. Leube, therefore, supposes that the sibilant sound, as well as the spasmodic contraction of the palate, were due to the part which those branches of the facial nerve that supply the palate took in the spasm. It was not possible to prove whether those

fibres of the facial nerve which stimulate the secretion of the saliva were also excited. The treatment consisted in giving Fowler's arsenical solution, either internally or hypodermically, and the results were most gratifying.

SURGERY.

URETHRAL CALCULUS IN THE FEMALE.—Dr. Campbell gives in the *Canada Lancet* an account of a stone found in the urethra of a girl aged 14. The patient had previously enjoyed good health, but had complained for the last three weeks of lancinating pains in the lower part of the abdomen and the groins, especially during micturition. She had menstruated about eight months previously, but not since. As the pains were attributed to the turgescence state of the ovaries and mucous membranes preceding the menstrual flux, an emmenagogue was given, and the usual remedies for promoting the flow applied. Towards night, however, the pains were so intense at every attempt to micturate, that the physician was again called in. On examining the vessel, he found only pus mixed with blood. A sound was introduced into the urethra, and came into contact with a stone of the size of a hickory-nut, triangular in shape and laminated. It was extracted by lithectomy and found to consist of phosphate of lime, having an uric acid nucleus about the size of a small bean. The adjacent mucous membrane was much swollen and inflamed from sympathetic irritation. The symptoms subsided in a few days under the internal administration of opiates and the external application of a solution of borax and flax-seed water. The patient had resided in a limestone region, and often drank from limestone brooks. Calcareous deposits had often been observed in the kettle used for heating water.

OBSTETRICS AND DISEASES OF WOMEN.

MENSTRUATION DURING PREGNANCY.—The above mentioned fact has been observed by Dr. Charles (*Gazette des Hôpitaux*, 1878, p. 148) in a woman aged 24, who menstruated regularly during the whole of the nine months of her first pregnancy, and was delivered with much difficulty of a still-born child. In her second pregnancy, she menstruated during the first months; the flow then suddenly ceased till the eighth month, when a violent metrorrhagia came on; which was, however, stopped by two days' rest. A few days before delivery, a new metrorrhagia came on, which was stopped by plugging the vagina, and was followed two days later by a normal confinement. The author suspected from the last hæmorrhage that there must have been a marginal insertion of the placenta.

ELONGATED TUMOUR OF LABIUM.—M. Cellard (*Annales de Dermatologie, and Journal de Médecine et de Chirurgie*) describes the following case. A lady aged 40, who had always been in good health, consulted a medical man about a swelling on the genital organs, which she had first noticed three years previously, but which had since assumed most remarkable dimensions. On examination, there was found an excrescence on the superior and external portion of the left labium. This growth, which consisted only of the skin and connective tissue, was more than 2 *mètres* (6½ feet) long, but not much thicker than a little finger; it was soft, and the pulsation of the vessels could easily be detected on its surface. The patient had tied it round her waist by means of a bandage of her own invention, to keep herself from treading on it. An operation being consented to, the base of the tumour was fixed with forceps and cut through at once. The patient lost very little blood, and recovered in a few days, during which the wound was cauterised with nitrate of silver and firmly compressed.

WARM FOMENTATIONS TO THE HEAD IN CASES OF UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.—Dr. Koehler (*Allg. Med. Central-Zeitung*, No. 1, 1879) states that he has for the last seven years, in cases of uterine hæmorrhage, applied warm fomentations to the head to prevent anæmia of the brain, and also to the heart. Hot sand-bags are also very efficient, and the patients often will bear sand which is so hot that it can scarcely be touched with the hand. As soon as the fomentation or bag has been applied, consciousness is restored; the pulse grows stronger; the patient herself states that she feels better, that the ringing in the ears has ceased, and that she likes the appliance. As soon as it becomes cooler, she wishes it to be renewed. Dr. Koehler has, he says, saved patients even in most dangerous cases of hæmorrhage by this proceeding, by which the physician never loses time, as the fomentations may be watched and renewed by any one. This method has been found equally efficient in anæmia caused by epistaxis, hæmorrhages produced by wounds, etc.

ing the specimen, alluded to the rarity of the recorded cases of true luxation of the costal cartilages—Malgaigne had collected only four examples—and to the fact that all the fractures were in the anterior segment of the ribs, and often showed a tendency to impaction. In one case, the rib was only partially fractured.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

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.

The following communications have also been promised :

J. Farrar, Esq.: A Case of Idiopathic Tetanus treated by Chloral Hydrate.

Dr. Haddon : 1. A Case of Milk-like Urine in a Boy ; 2. The Evils of Diffusing Steam in the Room in Cases of Bronchitis.

Dr. Little will exhibit Cartoons demonstrating the Ophthalmoscope, and will illustrate its Use by Cases.

Dr. Lloyd Roberts will show a Case of Extra-uterine Pregnancy in which Abdominal Section was performed.

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

Dinner will be provided at the Derby Hotel at six o'clock. Charge 7s. 6d., exclusive of wine.

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.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE third ordinary meeting of the session 1878-9 was held on December 12th, 1878, in the Queen's College, Birmingham. Present : Dr. TIBBITS, President, in the chair, and twenty-two members.

New Members.—The following members of the Association were elected members of the Branch : Mr. J. O'Dowd, Netherton ; Dr. O. C. Shaw, Moseley.

Communications.—1. Mr. FURNEAUX JORDAN, through the kindness of Sir James Paget, showed a specimen of fluid from a case in which Fluid constantly drops from one Nostril.

2. Dr. SAVAGE showed a Dermoid Ovarian Tumour which he had removed. It consisted of an unilocular cyst containing a large quantity of fatty matter, which became solid when cold, and hairs, in the centre of which was a mass of hair. The inner wall of the cyst had hairs growing from it, and presented some adherent calcareous matter, but no teeth. The pedicle was clamped. The patient recovered.

3. Dr. MALINS showed his Curettes for treating certain affections of the Uterus, and pointed out the advantages of their use in particular cases as compared with dilatation by tents.

4. Mr. M. F. ANDERSON read the concluding portion of his paper on the Mineral Theory of Consumption and Allied Diseases.

5. Dr. RICKARDS read a paper entitled Cases of Enteric Fever, with comments.—A discussion followed, in which Dr. Sawyer, Mr. Manby, and Dr. Handford shared.—Dr. Rickards replied.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH : ORDINARY MEETING.

THE first ordinary meeting of this session was held at the Railway Hotel, Stoke-upon-Trent, on Thursday, November 28th, 1878 : present, E. F. WESTON, Esq., President, in the Chair, and twenty-one members.

New Members.—The following members of the Association were duly elected members of the Branch : Mr. J. Harmer Somerville, Bloxwich ; Mr. Frank Marsh, Stafford Infirmary.

Combined Meeting of Branches.—Mr. VINCENT JACKSON proposed and Mr. SPANTON seconded the following resolution, which was carried unanimously : "That a request be made to the Shropshire Branch to hold a combined meeting of the two Branches in May next at Wolverhampton."

Exhibition of Patients, etc.—1. Mr. J. Alcock exhibited a young girl the subject of Congenital Dislocation of both Hips ; also a young man in whom Mr. Wood's operation for the Radical Cure of Hernia was performed twelve years ago, and there had been no tendency to any hernia since ; also a boy aged 11, in whom Ogston's Operation for double Genu Valgum had recently been performed antiseptically.

2. Mr. Reginald Harrison (Liverpool) exhibited Dr. Bigelow's instruments for crushing and removing at one operation Stone from the Bladder :

3. Mr. J. Hartill showed two Calculi passed *per urethram*.

4. Mr. R. Garner exhibited a plate of Bone found in the Diaphragm during the *post mortem* examination of the body of a medical man. Mr. Garner stated that he had not seen allusion made to any similar case. He also showed a specimen of Scirrhus of the Pancreas ; and the Heart from a non-cyanotic child who had died from emaciation, and in which the foramen ovale was found to be patent.

5. Dr. Joseph Hunt exhibited and demonstrated the use of Dr. Gower's Hæmacytometer.

Communication.—Mr. SPANTON read a paper upon a new operation for the Radical Cure of Hernia.

Exhibition of Instruments.—Messrs. F. W. Walters and Co. of London exhibited a collection of Surgical Instruments.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

MEDICAL RELIEF IN THE WOBURN UNION.

THE *Bedford Mercury*, in a recent number, publishes a correspondence which has taken place between the Local Government Board and Dr. Macdonald, the medical officer of the workhouse, which, in the interests of the profession, merits observation. It would appear that Dr. Macdonald had occasion to leave home for five days, last July, and again he was away, on a holiday, from August 27th to September 25th. Prior to leaving, he requested his partner, Mr. Veasey, to act for him ; and told the master of the workhouse, if his services were required, that he was to apply to that gentleman. Mr. Veasey, however, on being requested to visit the workhouse, declined to do so, alleging as his reason that he was not Dr. Macdonald's deputy ; practically, therefore, the inmates of that workhouse were without a medical attendant for thirty-four days. This fact, coming to the knowledge of the guardians, a formal complaint was lodged at the Local Government Board against Dr. Macdonald, and that Board forthwith called on him for an explanation. From a perusal of the correspondence, we hold that Dr. Macdonald has fully exculpated himself from any intentional neglect, though we are at a loss to understand why Mr. Veasey adopted such a course of procedure, as it is stated that he did, towards a gentleman who was his partner.

It is not, however, with this part of the case that it is our purpose to deal. In the letter of the Local Government Board, of the 21st November, a new reading of Article 200 of the General Consolidated Orders is laid down—viz., that a Poor-law medical officer (though he may have appointed a legal substitute), before absenting himself from his duties, is bound to report his intention to his board of guardians.

In his reply to this letter, Dr. Macdonald traverses this view of the article, and maintains (and he is perfectly correct) that such an interpretation is quite at variance with the sense in which it is understood by the vast majority of Poor-law medical officers—indeed by all ordinary minds. It must be obvious that, if such a view were generally acted on, it would be most prejudicial to their private interests. Nearly all Poor-law medical officers are engaged in private practice ; and, if it is to be a necessity that a gentleman, before going on a holiday, however short, is compelled to apprise his board of his intention, as the proceedings of many boards are now published, it would be tantamount to publicly announcing that, for a certain period, Mr. This or Mr. That would be from home. Added to this, there is something most degrading in the thought that an educated gentleman should be compelled to announce and virtually to ask permission of his board to go away for a time. This is evidently Dr. Macdonald's view ; for, in his concluding letter, he declines to be bound by the decision of the Local Government Board, and announces his intention to resign rather than submit to it. This he has since done ; and therefore we are in a position to inform our readers that the *highly* lucrative appointment of medical officer to the Woburn Workhouse, licensed for 240 inmates, salary £35 a year, *with all drugs to find*, is now open to public competition.

Can there be any one so blind to his own interest, to the interests

of the poor, and the honour of the profession, as to take an appointment on such terms? We shall see. Dr. Macdonald, in our opinion, deserves the thanks of the profession for the manly stand he has made against this attempt of the department to still further lower the status of the Poor-law medical service.

DISTRICT MEDICAL RELIEF IN ST. PANCAS.

A VACANCY having occurred in No. 4 district of this parish, the medical officer of No. 5 district wrote to the Dispensary Committee (with whom rests the appointment) asking them to give him this additional office, and offering as an inducement to the guardians to grant his request that he would work the two districts for £40 a-year less salary than that heretofore given. If his proposition had been acceded to, the population of the two districts would have exceeded 70,000. To the great credit of the Dispensary Committee, this indecorous offer was refused.

OBITUARY.

THOMAS WALTER EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

THE untimely end to which we here allude was the result of an attack of typhoid, complicated by pulmonary congestion, which proved fatal on December 15th, 1878. Mr. Evans was a hard worker in a busy practice, in spite of successive ailments during the year or two preceding the fever which laid him up. His father is the Rev. D. Silvan Evans, B.D., of Llanwrin, and holds the Professorship of Celtic in the University College of Wales. The deceased was a member of the British Medical Association and of the Liverpool Medical Institution.

JOHN WALKER, B.A., M.B., MANCHESTER.

DR. WALKER graduated as B.A. and M.B. of Trinity College, Dublin, in 1873, and obtained the licence of the College of Surgeons of Ireland the same year. He afterwards became connected with the Richmond Hospital, where, by assiduous attention to his duties during a severe epidemic of small-pox, he earned the good wishes and support of all connected with the hospital, and the Government granted him a special certificate. His next appointment was that of Resident Medical Officer to the Hulme Dispensary, Manchester. On his resignation as resident, he was appointed honorary surgeon to the dispensary. He was one of the most ardent supporters of the Provident Dispensary scheme up to the end of his short career.

Although he had been only three years in private practice, he was already enjoying a lucrative practice, and his prospects were bright; but an attack of typhoid fever proved fatal to him, after a week's illness, at the early age of 30.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners on January 22nd.

Addison, William H., Natal
Bickerton, Thomas H., Liverpool
Bourns, Newcome W., Oxted
Butler, G. Henry, Hobart Town
Chillingworth, Andrew, Maldon
Corder, Sheppard R., L.S.A., Ipswich
Cotton, Charles, L.R.C.P.E., Fowls Terrace
Da Silva, Paserai M., L.S.A., Bombay
Francis, William, Eastbourne
Hartley, John, Buntingford
Holbeche, Arthur O., Sutton Coldfield
Hoole, Henry, L.S.A., Gunnersbury
Landan, Edward, L.R.C.P.Ed., Oxford
Marsh, William A., Hendley
Roper, Edwin, Croydon
Seager, Herbert W., St. George's Square
Smith, Ernest F., Devonport
Watkins, Sydney C., Norton Folgate
Woollett, Sidney W., L.S.A., Chigwell

The following gentlemen passed on January 23rd.

Davies, Evan E. C. C., Ponnaen Lampeter
Elliot, Henry, Cullercoats
Forsbrook, William H. R., L.S.A., Loughborough Road
Gayton, Francis C., L.S.A., Much Hadham
Hann, Henry F., Argyll Square
Lary, William J., Stoke Damerel
Masson, William H., Leeds
Nield, Louis C. N., L.S.A., Ealing

Payne, Charles A., L.S.A., Lewisham
Smith, Herbert A., L.R.C.P.Ed., Windsor
Waldo, Frederick J., Clifton, Bristol
Weston, Samuel T. D., Halesowen
Wharry, Arthur J., Old Charlton
Williams, Alexander L., Kensington
Young, Campbell L., Pembroke Square

The following gentlemen passed on January 24th.

Collier, Mark P. M., L.S.A., Turnham Green
Freeman, William T., Burnham, Norfolk
Griffiths, Herbert T., Devonshire Place
Hall, John L., L.S.A., Porchester Gate
Layton, Henry A., Highbury Grove
Morrison, James T. J., Plumstead, Kent
Porston, Alfred C., Swaffham, Cambridge
Vores, Arthur, Great Yarmouth
White, Richard W., Blakeney, Gloucestershire

The following gentlemen passed on January 27th.

Congreve, George T., L.S.A., Peckham
Fuller, Thomas W., New Shoreham, Sussex
Giles, Frederick W., Henley-on-Thames
Greathead, John B. S., Graham's Town, Cape of Good Hope
Leatham, Henry B., L.S.A., New Plymouth, New Zealand
Miller, Herbert P., Stoke Newington
Jenkins, John H., L.R.C.S.Edin., Cheltenham
Ogle, Charles J., L.S.A., Hunter Street, Brunswick Square
Price, Edward M., Bridgend

Of the 136 candidates examined, 65 obtained their diplomas; 28 were approved in Surgery, and, when qualified in Medicine, will be admitted members of the College; and 43 were sent back to their professional studies for six months.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, January 23rd, 1879.

Gilder, Sherrington Ernest Alfred, Barnsley, Yorkshire
Hall, William Henry, Woodlands, Caterham
Leatham, Henry Blackburn, New Plymouth, New Zealand
Sayer, Tom, Swaffham, Norfolk

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

Bennett, Deane, St. Mary's Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

ARMAGH UNION—Medical Officer for Richhill Dispensary District. Salary, £120 per annum, and £20 per annum as Sanitary Officer, together with Vaccination and Registration Fees. Election will take place on the 10th instant.

INVERNESS DISTRICT ASYLUM—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £80 per annum, with bed, board, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 8th 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 the 3rd instant.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

*BLAKER, Thomas F. J., M.R.C.S.Eng., appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Brighton and Hove Lying-in Institution, Hospital, Dispensary for the Diseases of Women and Children, *vice* F. W. Salzmänn, M.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.

*GAWITH, J. Jackson, M.R.C.S.E., appointed Medical Officer to the Westbourne Provident Dispensary and Maternity, *vice* *G. Hastings, M.D., 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.

BIRTHS.

BATEMAN.—On January 21st, at Whitchurch, Oxon., the wife of *Francis Bateman, M.B.Lond., of a son.

COTTON.—On January 15th, at 8, Sloane Terrace, S.W., the wife of *Holland J Cotton, M.D., of a son.

MARRIAGE.

BOOTH—DEACON.—On January 22nd, 1879, at Farnworth, near Widnes, Lancashire, John Bennion Booth, M.R.C.S.England, of Beech House, to Esther, second daughter of the late Henry Deacon, Esq., J.P., of Appleton House, near Widnes.

At Loughrea last week, the van belonging to the workhouse, which is employed for the removal of the sick to hospital, was burned by some parties unknown. The act is supposed to have occurred in order to prevent the vehicle from being used for the conveyance of small-pox patients from the rural districts. This is the second workhouse van that has been burned within the past few years.

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. Lettsomian Lectures, by John C. Thorowgood, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lecture III: "Treatment of Asthma".—Odontological Society, 8 P.M. Inaugural Address by Mr. Saunders, President. Communications by the President, Mr. H. Moon, and Mr. S. J. Hutchinson.

TUESDAY.—Pathological Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. F. Taylor: Spinal Cord, from a Case of Infantile Paralysis. Dr. Turner: Acute Myelitis in an Infant. Dr. Humphreys (of Manchester): Sections of the Cord from Cases of Infantile Paralysis. Dr. R. Crocker: 1. Warty Growth on the Tricuspid Valve, with Mitral Stenosis; 2. Three specimens of Congenital Malformation of the Heart. Dr. Greenfield: Hypertrophic Cirrhosis of the Liver. Mr. A. Doran: Perforating Ulcer of Small Intestine after Ovariectomy; and other specimens.

WEDNESDAY.—Epidemiological Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Sir Joseph Fayrer, "On the relation of *Filaria Sanguinis Hominis* to Endemic Disease in India".—Obstetrical Society of London, 8 P.M. Specimens will be exhibited by Dr. Hickinbotham, Dr. Galabin, and Dr. John Williams. The President's Address. Paper: Dr. James Braithwaite, "On Digital Dilatation of the Os Uteri in Labour".

THURSDAY.—Harveian Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Teevan, "On Incontinence and Retention of Urine in Children"; Dr. Norman Kerr, "The Mortality from Intemperate Drinking, and how best to arrive at the truth".

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 EUCALYPTUS.

We have often referred to the value of the eucalyptus tree as a means of destroying or preventing malaria. Some of the experiments made with this object have proved so successful that the cultivation of the tree is being rapidly extended. For example, in Algeria two millions of these trees have been planted in different parts of the country; but this not being enough, a company has been formed for the purpose of planting a large additional area, while the French Government has granted a subvention in aid of the project. In Corsica, more than a million trees have been planted; but, according to the *Daily News*, it is in Italy and Cyprus that just now the most interesting experiments are being made. Prince Troubetkoy, who has taken up this matter energetically in Rome, says that careful observation has brought him to the conclusion that the *eucalyptus amygdalina* is the most useful variety of the tree. It is not only picturesque, but of exceptionally rapid growth—plants grown in pots and re-planted at the age of six months have attained in eight years a height of seventeen metres. Moreover, its leaves contain six times as much volatile oil as those of the *eucalyptus globulus*. The Prince adds that this kind grows as well in a damp as in a dry and exposed soil; and also, that it bears cold very well, seeing that at his villa in the neighbourhood of Rome it resisted a temperature of six degrees below zero Cent. (21 Fahr.). He says that the eucalyptus, when young, requires care, which it subsequently repays with usury. As during the ensuing spring this tree is to be planted on a large scale in Cyprus, the authorities in that island would do well to profit by Prince Troubetkoy's practical experience.

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.

SCREW EXTENSION IN THE TREATMENT OF FRACTURES.

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent Dr. T. M. Greenhow, whose letter appeared in the *JOURNAL* of the 11th instant, I have to point out that both the idea and the practice of employing a screw for making extension are very old. Le Cat invented a screw apparatus in 1745 for treating fractures of the humerus, a drawing of which I exhibited in the annual museum of our Association in 1871; and even Hippocrates used a screw for making extension in the treatment of dislocations. I believe I was the first to suggest the use of screw-pads for grasping a limb in connection with screw extension, whilst a student at King's College. A description of the apparatus was published in 1850, and again in the *Medical Times and Gazette*, 1853. The late Sir W. Fergusson was the first to use it. I do not think, however, the screw is the best force to employ in every surgical case requiring extension.—I am, etc., Plymouth, January 14th, 1879. HENRY GREENWAY.

PRIVILEGES OF REGISTERED PRACTITIONERS.

SIR,—Would you kindly inform me through your *JOURNAL* whether or not a L.R.C.S.I. is free from attendances on juries according to the present laws in Ireland?—Yours truly, M. M. M.

* * Section 35 of the Medical Act (1858) provides that "Every person who shall be registered under the provisions of the Act shall be exempt, if he shall so desire, from serving on all juries and inquests whatsoever". As the Act establishes reciprocity of practice in the three divisions of the United Kingdom, it is to be presumed that it confers the privilege of exemption from serving on juries in each division.

VICARIOUS SERVICE.

SIR,—Will you kindly give me your opinion in the following case? A. comes into a district in which B. resides. B. does not like A.'s predecessor, so he engages C. (who lives some miles off) to attend his wife during confinement. When the time arrives, C. is telegraphed for, and meantime A. is called in, as people are anxious. A. gets to case only an hour before C. arrives. A. and C. meet in a very friendly way, but no mention of fee is made. Kindly say what proportion of fee A. is to expect, and to whom he is to apply. This occurred about nine months ago.—Truly yours, January 22nd, 1879. A MEMBER.

* * A. is entitled by custom to one-half the fee; or, if a stranger, C. should have tendered the whole, of which A. would do well, with a view to future courtesies, to accept only half.

THE EXAMINATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

SIR,—I see in a recent number a notice of the melancholy death of a young medical undergraduate—one of the victims to the present system, paramount in medical education, excess in the requirements, and the consequent overstrain of brain to respond to the same. The former is, in my opinion, a mistake, calculated to enervate rather than strengthen those natural faculties which, in our profession, are most reliable. The unfortunate occurrence mentioned had reference to the advanced examinations of the University of London rather than to the preliminary; but animadversions are not uncalled for respecting the latter. A medical friend complained to me lately that his son had been unfairly plucked at the last preliminary; and, on writing for an explanation, he was told that one examiner had not been satisfied, and this though his son had just before come out second in the same subject at a college which, I presume, is the first in the provinces, and the professor in which, I may say, stands *secundus nulli*. Had this case occurred singly, one would have thought less of it, but many or most of the other alumni had to submit to the same fate; and, on applying for explanations, got the same answer. Of these, several had previously earned scholarships in other schools, or have done so since. Over the subjects I will say nothing, except that they were of very minor importance for any practical good, and of a difficult and abstruse nature, to say the least. Were I a professor or examiner, I might indeed expect my own pupils to answer such questions, simply because they might be expected to know my own teachings; but, as regards the pupils of other schools, an experienced and considerate examiner might very properly be inclined to make due allowance.—I remain, yours faithfully, January, 1879. F. R. C. S.

THYMOL OINTMENT.

SIR,—On page 14 of your paper dated 4th instant, we observe it stated that thymol ointment has a marked advantage over preparations of carbolic acid, as it is otherwise innocuous. This statement would seem to imply that you consider thymol to be non-poisonous. If any other meaning were intended, we trust you will let it be clearly stated as a matter of fairness to yours truly, Manchester, January 11th, 1879. F. G. CALVERT AND CO.

* * In our review of the action of thymol, we simply gave expression to the conclusion arrived at by the exhaustive experimental researches of Dr. Hans Ranke on its therapeutical and toxic action. He states "that it is a ten times weaker poison for the organisms than carbolic acid, and so that its noxiousness is altogether out of the question in the extremely small quantities which we employ in antiseptic treatment". *Vide Ueber das Thymol und seine Benutzung bei der antiseptischen Behandlung der Wunden*. Having regard also to the fact that it is only soluble with difficulty, and therefore is not likely to be swallowed in poisonous doses with the fatal facility with which carbolic acid has been too frequently, we feel that we were justified in the expression "innocuous", though we are willing to add comparatively, in the same sense as we would apply it to camphor or other similar medicinal agent.

THROAT-SPRAYS AND INHALERS.

INQUIRER asks: What are the most suitable forms of throat-spray and inhaler to use in diphtheria and other throat affections?

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

SIR,—In reply to Dr. Stanley's query in the *JOURNAL* of January 18th, I beg to inform him that he will find a complete list of all the medical appointments in Ireland, with the salaries attached and names of the medical officers, in the *Irish Medical Directory*, published at 3, Molesworth Street, Dublin.—Yours, etc., January 1879. R. STUART.

pay the salary that a fully qualified man has a right to expect; and if there were no unlicensed men, the majority of the patients would have to be neglected. There are but few medical men who obtain more than seventy per cent. of their dues; so the need for employing assistants requiring small salaries cannot be diminished by any advance of charges on the part of principals. Of course, our position would be much weakened if any one could prove the oft repeated statement that unqualified assistants are, as a body, so ignorant as to be dangerous to the public. But they are for the most part respected both by employers and patients; and I may, without boastfulness, state that most of the gentlemen whom I have assisted have been glad to ask my opinion and act upon it in cases of difficult diagnosis. And if any eminent man in the profession would like to obtain some genuine data for estimating the acquirements of unlicensed assistants, I am sure that there are many who would willingly submit to a smart clinical examination. I believe that most unqualified assistants would hail with delight any plan that would give them an opportunity of proving their ability to deal with cases under supervision, and to obtain certification of being able to do so. The chief difficulty now in their way is the expense of attending collegiate classes. But supposing that evidence should turn in favour of extinguishing the system we are considering, it would surely be a most inglorious reform if you ousted us from your domains, or proposed to treat us to a "bag-and-baggage" extermination. A few examining boards, several hospitals, and at least half of the practitioners, have encouraged students of medicine to practise their profession prior to becoming qualified; and herein a responsibility has been incurred which, if it stood alone, should serve to ensure our being fairly and leniently dealt with. The mass of us will, I think, be found deserving of consideration; and there are many in our ranks whose circumstances are calculated to excite the keenest pity.

"A Qualified Assistant" writes:—"The letter from 'An University Undergraduate' seems to me to be as vague as it is discourteous. As a matter of fact, there are very few men who take the Hall diploma alone, and they are for the most part men who have spent several years previously as unqualified assistants, and who, therefore, in point of experience, are fully equal to your unqualified correspondent; while, on the other hand, those who go in for a double qualification certainly require more than two years' study. I should have thought that the 'education' (collegiate, hospital, and otherwise) which the 'University Undergraduate' says he has received would have enabled him to obtain ere this a diploma of some sort, especially as it has extended over a period of fourteen years, though why we should be called upon to acknowledge that his 'ability' is 'infinitely superior' to every newly fledged L.S.A., by virtue of that education, I am at a loss to understand. Unqualified assistants are very well in certain exceptional cases, but it is unfair that those who have spent a great deal of time and money in gaining their diplomas should have to compete with men whose education has cost them comparatively nothing, and who very probably started in life as a 'doctor's boy'."

"A Member and Qualified Assistant" criticises the observations of "An Union Medical Officer," and says:—"If much of what he says be true, it involves not only a stricture on qualified assistants, but also a charge of the most grave kind against the educating bodies of the United Kingdom, including, of course, that particular school from whose 'forms' a large part of 'An Union Medical Officer's' experience of student-life must have been obtained. But, independently of this consideration, why would unqualified men not be at one time as inexperienced as assistants at their qualified rivals? Must not they, too, have a beginning to their career? Various causes combine to make a 'qualified' man choose the otherwise unenviable life of an assistant: two especially—want of means and want of an opening to enter practice for himself. The man who suffers from the former impediment adopts a life which is sure to bring him hard work, and frequently actual want. Entering the world to fight his own battle, he has chosen an exceptionally hard battle-field, and has arrayed against him, like all beginners, qualified or otherwise, the prejudice which a nervous public not unnaturally feels. He frequently, in dealing with such opposition, has little consideration shown him. He is held as accountable to the public for the proper conduct of his profession as the most advanced principal can be; his days are spent amongst the lowest class of patients, or in the surgery dispensing, and frequently he has to attend the beck and call of every one who rings his bell; while very often, if there be a large midwifery practice, his nights are spent in a filthy room beside patients whose exacting conduct is proverbial. If he be living in the house of his principal, he has to take his chance as to the social consideration he receives from his principal and his principal's family and friends. He is never for a single moment his own master, and can take no thought for the morrow, except so far as its work is concerned. This life is largely remunerated, at the average rate of £70 indoor, or £120 out, while he is prohibited by a stringent agreement, from practising within a certain radius of his principal. A principal may do many things to make his assistant's life comfortable; but too commonly he is indifferent, if he be not too exacting. He does not act so as to encourage public trust in him; and it has frequently been remarked to me that the principal displays in many cases a most unworthy jealousy of him. Thus the man who has been at pains to qualify, and legally fits himself for a life of anything but idleness, starts on his journey; and I strenuously protest against the want of courtesy, if not of correctness, which pervades the letter of 'An Union Medical Officer.' We are by no means infallible, and I dare say there are many unqualified men who are more worthy and everything to be desired as assistants—perhaps many more fitted to practise than some qualified men. But when it is the law that those practising medicine and surgery should be duly qualified and registered, I conclude that the employment of unqualified men is not alone an injustice to those legally qualified, but it is fostering a system, illegal in practice, which might easily become detrimental to the public good, and which has a direct tendency to lower the status of the profession."

GRÆCULUS ESURIENS.—Irony is thrown away on such a case. The offence is too flagrant.

SOLUTION OF PHOSPHORUS.

SIR,—In answer to Mr. W. Martindale, pharmaceutical chemist, who corrects me for my estimate of the strength of the saturated solution of phosphorus in ether, I beg to say that Bouchardat's formula (which he quotes) is inserted in *Meadows's Prescriber's Companion*, and the estimate there given is 1-120th of a grain in one minim, which, though not identical with my previous assertion of 1-100th, is yet nearer to it than is Mr. Martindale's of 1-205th. After all, it is merely a chemical punctilio which your correspondent is arguing. What I wished to tell the profession, and to which I steadfastly adhere, is that one minim of saturated solution of phosphorus in ether is a safe and efficient dose, especially useful in neuralgia (I should certainly pity a patient who was required to take a quarter of a grain). My chemist, Mr. Piggot of this town, is sending specimen, from my suggestion, to a surgeon in Northumberland.—I remain, yours truly,

Leighton Buzzard, January 21st, 1879.

J. A. HEDGES.

MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

The circumstances are unpleasant; and it would perhaps have been more brotherly if our complainant had himself requested that a further communication be made to the practitioner first in attendance before that gentleman's services were dispensed with.

DR. A. K. DYER.—The Shropshire Branch's Tariff of Fees is published by J. Wardle, Shrewsbury.

AGGRIEVED.—Fees are always a matter of arrangement: the scale mentioned seems rather high for a family physician; low for a "pure physician." But in the absence of particulars we can give no opinion.

The following letters have been handed to the General Secretary and Manager:—Mr. R. T. Leslie, Liverpool; Mr. Pridgin Teale, Leeds; Mr. Smith, Bristol; Mr. Wilson, Lancaster; Mr. A. G. Keugh, London; Dr. Rockliffe, Hull; Mr. G. E. K. Thorpe, Sheffield; Mr. J. Hodgkin, Oxford; M. G. Masson, Paris; Dr. T. Wright, Nottingham.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Western Morning News; The Irish Times; The Cornwall Gazette; The Glasgow Herald; The Edinburgh Daily Courier; The Manchester Guardian; The Berkshire Chronicle; The Yorkshire Post; The Middlesex County Times; The Coventry Herald; The Liverpool Daily Post; The Manchester Courier; The Cork Constitution; The Leeds Mercury; The Surrey Advertiser; etc.

* We shall be greatly obliged if correspondents forwarding newspapers will kindly mark the passages to which it is desired to direct attention.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:—

Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, London; Dr. J. Marion Sims, Paris; Dr. J. Hughlings Jackson, London; Dr. W. Rutherford, Edinburgh; Dr. R. J. Lee, London; Dr. Mackey, Brighton; Dr. T. J. Walker, Peterborough; Mr. Hodgkin, Oxford; Dr. A. Gant, London; Dr. Moorhead, Cootehill; Dr. Ransome, Bowden; Dr. Roper, London; Mr. Sutherland Edwards, London; Dr. Warner, London; Olintush; Mr. G. Middlemiss, Darlington; Mr. W. Otley, London; Dr. J. Cuming, Belfast; Mr. Nelson Hardy, London; Mr. F. Stilwell, Epsom; Mr. S. C. Fox, Kilburn; M. M. M.; Dr. W. Allen Sturge, London; Mr. Thomas Jones, London; Mr. R. Stuart, Dublin; Mr. Radcliffe, London; Dr. Leech, Manchester; M.D.; Mr. J. R. Morison, Hartlepool; Mr. Davies, Bristol; A Member; M.D. Edin.; Dr. V. Jagielski, London; Mr. L. Browne, London; F.R.C.S.; Dr. MacGeagh, Tunbridge Wells; Mr. R. W. Jenkins, Fawley; Dr. Beaton, Glasgow; Mr. Gibson, Ilchester; Dr. A. Wynn Williams, London; Dr. Wm. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; Dr. J. F. Shanahan, Dewsbury; Dr. J. A. Philips, Gloucester; Mr. J. G. Clendinnen, Bilston; Dr. Kenyon, Chester; Mr. Jackson, London; An Associate; Mr. James Harran, Stonehouse; Mr. Hedges, Leighton Buzzard; Mr. Howard Marsh, London; Dr. Wigglesworth, Boston; Mr. H. Wilson, Leicester; Mr. J. K. Burt, Kendal; Dr. Atkinson, Kingston-on-Thames; Mr. Whitfield Edwards, London; Mr. Vincent Jackson, Wolverhampton; Dr. W. Alexander, Halifax; Mr. Blackett, London; Dr. Hardwicke, London; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Dr. Robinson, Dover; Mr. Wyndham Cottle, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. Broom, Clifton; Mr. W. Sykes, Mexborough; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; Mr. Jenkins, London; Mr. A. W. Mayo Robson, Leeds; Dr. Pavy, London; Dr. B. Foster, Birmingham; Dr. Davey, Bristol; Mr. J. Newton, Dukinfield; Mr. Richard Davy, London; Dr. Day, Norwich; Mr. John Langston, Rochester; Dr. J. Matthews Duncan, London; Dr. Dyer, Mansfield; Mr. M. A. Morris, London; Mr. S. Snell, Sheffield; Dr. W. C. Rockliffe, Hull; Mr. Greene, Birmingham; Dr. Bayley, Stourbridge; Dr. R. A. Wilson, Hornby; Dr. Greenhill, Hastings; Mr. T. G. Smith, Bristol; Dr. Oxley, Liverpool; Mr. T. P. Teale, Leeds; Etiology; Dr. J. Arbuckle, Wakefield; Mr. H. Greenway, Plymouth; Dr. Spencer Smyth, London; Aggrieved; Mr. J. Jackson Gawth, London; Dr. Holland, London; Dr. Denne, Birmingham; Mr. Hornby, Liverpool; Græculus Esuriens; The Registrar-General of England; Mr. J. MacNab, Stirling; Mr. S. Thorp, Sible-Hedingham; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Dr. Heaton, Leeds; Our Berlin Correspondent; Mr. L. Owen, Birmingham; Dr. Greenhow, London; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. C. Price, London; Mr. J. Edwards, Liverpool; Mr. Laidlaw Purves, London; Dr. W. Stone, London; Mr. P. Le N. Foster, London; Dr. L. Armstrong, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. A. Fennings, London; Dr. Hamill, Manchester; Dr. Bond, London; Mr. T. F. J. Blaker, Brighton; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

A Manual for the Practice of Surgery. By Thomas Bryant, F.R.C.S.. Two Vols. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1879.
Papers on the Female Perinæum, etc. By J. M. Duncan, A.M., M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1879.
A Manual of Practical Chemistry. By Alexander Wynter Blyth, M.R.C.S. London: C. Griffin and Co. 1879.
The Family Physician. By Physicians and Surgeons of the principal London Hospitals. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin. 1879.
Aids to Therapeutics and Materia Medica. By C. E. Armand Semple, B.A., M.B. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Co. 1879.
On Checks to Population. By C. H. F. Routh, M.D. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Co. 1879.
Outlines of Medicine. By C. E. A. Semple, B.A., M.B. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Co. 1879.
Alcohol in some Clinical Aspects. By Godwin Timms, M.D. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Co. 1879.
Street's Indian and Colonial Directory for 1878 and 1879. London: Street Brothers. 1879.