

pathic dimensions, constitute, in our opinion, a distinct progress in pharmacy. There is no reason why a whole series of parvules or granules should not be prepared containing the legitimate dose of strychnia, belladonna, ergotine, morphia, and so on, which should be absolutely reliable in use, extremely portable, potent, uniform, and agreeable both to the eye and palate. A hint might well be borrowed by our pharmacists from the charming little sugar-pharmacies of Dr. Burggraeve, for what he calls his dosimetric system. A well-assorted selection of sugar parvules or granules impregnated with all the various alkaloids and active principles and their salts could then be carried in the coat-pocket or could lie on the study-table, and enough medicine for an army could be contained in a moderate-sized cabinet. We have no doubt that the time is approaching when a surgeon's dispensary need not, for all practical purposes, occupy more than a corner of his study, and when ordinary dispensing will become a scientific manufacturing art, supplying ready to hand about three or four score active principles diffused in sugar granules, by the combination of which all the exigencies of the most refined and intelligent practice will be sufficiently met. Messrs. Newbury and Co., Newgate Street, are agents for these preparations.

SELECTIONS FROM JOURNALS.

THERAPEUTICS.

CAPSICUM AND QUININE.—Capsicum combined with quinine will diminish, it is alleged, the size of the dose requisite, and the same may be said of ginger and other aromatics. A good dose of capsicum combined with twenty grains of quinine will act as well as thirty grains of quinine without the capsicum. Spices in general stimulate the portal circulation, and promote the flow of bile, and hence their universal use in hot climates. There is a tendency on the part of quinine and capsicum to purge, and sometimes to purge violently. In such cases, the purgative action is caused by the increased flow of bile produced by the capsicum. Ginger and quinine when combined do not purge, and it makes a very good combination. If the medicine be administered in form of pills, capsicum may be preferable, because of the less bulk required; but, if desirable, the ginger may be given separately, and with the same effect as when combined with quinine. The proportions should be one grain of capsicum to three grains of quinine; with ginger, one grain of each.—*Canada Medical Journal.*

PATHOLOGY.

TUBERCLES IN THE CEREBELLUM.—The following observation is published in *Il Morgagni*. J. E., aged 11, presented himself as an out-patient in Professor Capozzi's clinic. He was pale; his mucous membranes were bloodless; and his face bore an expression of great suffering. He complained principally of a violent headache, which spread over the whole of the skull, but principally over the frontal and occipital regions. His nurse, who accompanied him, stated that this symptom was accompanied by amblyopia, strabismus, giddiness, and vomiting. Since he had begun to suffer from these headaches, he had had an uncertain gait very like a drunkard's, could not stand upright, never walked, but always ran, at the imminent risk of falling. On examining the patient, bronchial *râles* were heard on both sides of the thorax. This, together with the peculiar harshness of the breathing and the above mentioned troubles, led to the diagnosis of a tumour in the cerebellum. The patient died a few days after his admission into the hospital, and the diagnosis was subsequently confirmed at the necropsy. In the middle of the cerebellum, above the fourth ventricle, was found a tumour of the size of a nut, having the structure of a tubercle. Two tuberculous nuclei were situated in the lungs. The bronchial glands were swollen, and contained in their centre a yellow cheesy mass.

CANNOCK RURAL.—Mr. Manby, in presenting his first annual report on the health of this district, gives a very satisfactory account of his proceedings during 1878. Out of a total of 278 deaths, 27 occurred from diseases of the zymotic class, none of them being exceptionally fatal. No fewer than 105 deaths occurred in children under five years, 64 of these being in infants under one year. The unusually cold weather of November and December caused a large number of deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs. Some drainage-works appear to be under the consideration of the local authority; but there is yet much to be done in this direction, as well as in improving the water-supply. A very striking instance of the impossibility of making surface-wells, on which the district appears chiefly to rely, absolutely safe from outside pollution is recorded in the report.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1879.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Association for 1879 became due on January 1st. Members of Branches are requested to pay the same to their respective Secretaries. Members of the Association not belonging to Branches, are requested to forward their remittances to Mr. FRANCIS FOWKE, General Secretary, 161, Strand, London. Post Office Orders should be made payable at the West Central District Office, High Holborn.

The British Medical Journal.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH, 1879.

THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION.

In the recently published programmes for the next annual meeting of the British Medical Association, it will be seen that the arrangements are already completed so far as to include the names of the orators and of the officers of sections. The meeting is fixed for Tuesday, the 5th August, and following days, and is to be held, as our readers are aware, at Cork, the metropolis of the South of Ireland, and the centre of great intellectual activity as well as of many of the most singular attractions of a beautiful country.

The President-elect, named by the profession in the south of Ireland, and appointed by acclamation at the last annual meeting at Bath, is Dr. Denis O'Connor, Professor of the Practice of Medicine in Queen's College, Cork, whose character and attainments secure for him the affection and respect of the profession. The address in Medicine will be delivered by Dr. Hudson, the Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Dublin, and the successor of Stokes, than whom no man is more universally beloved and esteemed throughout Ireland, and whom the profession throughout Great Britain recognise as the leader of medicine in that country. The address in Surgery will be delivered by Mr. Savory, whose oratorical, no less than his surgical, attainments have long designated him for an office which he has now accepted, and which he will certainly fulfil with no ordinary power. Dr. Fergus, the President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow, and their representative in the General Medical Council, has so long been known for original investigations of great value in connection with sanitary science, that it is a matter of congratulation that he has accepted the post of Orator in Public Medicine. Thus the three annual addresses will be delivered by men of singular power and attainments on the subjects of those addresses, and this in itself gives promise of an immediate scientific outcome of the meeting.

The Presidents of Sections need only to be enumerated to show how carefully a selection has been made, which insures thorough efficiency in each of the departments, and an adequate representation of the professional resources of Ireland, as well as of the other divisions of the kingdom. The President of the Section of Medicine is Dr. Andrew Clark, who has during the last year shown so great an interest in the Metropolitan Counties Branch, and has added the claims of administrative capacity to those of his long-admitted scientific eminence. In Surgery, Dr. Tanner of Cork will preside; in Obstetric Medicine, Dr. Kidd of Dublin; in Public Medicine, Dr. Grimshaw of Dublin, the Chairman of Council of the Irish Medical Association; in Psychology, Dr. Eames of Cork; in Physiology, Mr. Henry Power. The Vice-Presidents are not less happily selected, and, looking through the lists, it will, we feel sure, be felt that on no occasion has any annual meeting held out, by its list of officers, a more distinct promise of thorough scientific earnestness in the work to be done. A great deal of the success of the meeting, in this respect, depends also upon the preliminary work of the Secretaries in arranging for the papers to be read, and determining subjects of especial prominence in discussion.

At the London meeting in 1873, a code of instructions to the honorary secretaries of Sections as to the means of best fulfilling their duties was

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

A MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held, at the offices of the Association, on Wednesday, the 16th day of April next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE,
General Secretary.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH.

A MEETING will be held on Tuesday next, April 15th, at half-past seven o'clock, at the County Infirmary, Gloucester; President, Dr. WILSON.

Business of the meeting:

1. Dr. J. Stewart will draw the attention of the Branch to the Bills before Parliament for the amendment of the Medical Acts.
2. The Registration of Infectious Diseases: Mr. Wilton.
3. Terebene in the Treatment of Wounds: Mr. Ellis.
4. "Aphasia": Dr. Batten.

Members are requested to observe that the meetings are now held on the third Tuesday in every month, at half-past seven o'clock; they are also invited to give notice to the Secretary of any questions or cases of interest, which they may be willing to bring before the Association.

RAYNER W. BATTEN, *Honorary Secretary.*

Gloucester, April 8th, 1879.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.

THE next meeting of the above Branch will be held at Llanelli, on Tuesday, April 15th. Members desiring to read papers, etc., are requested to signify the same to either of the Honorary Secretaries without delay.

ANDREW DAVIES, M.D. }
March 3, 1879. ALFRED SHEEN, M.D. } *Honorary Secretaries.*

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE fifth ordinary meeting of this Branch will be held at the Bristol Museum and Library, on Thursday, April 17th, at 7.30 P.M.: H. HENSLEY, M.D., President, in the chair.

EDMUND J. BOARD, *Honorary Secretary.*

Clifton, April 2nd, 1879.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE next meeting of this Branch will take place on Saturday, April 26th, at 3.30 P.M., at the Angel Hotel, Northwich: Dr. LESLIE JONES in the chair.

Dr. WILLIAM ROBERTS will read a paper on Digestive Ferments, and their Therapeutic Uses.

The following communications have also been promised.

Mr. REGINALD HARRISON: A case of Lithotomy where a large Cystic Oxide Calculus was removed.

Dr. LLOYD ROBERTS will show an intra-uterine tumour removed by excision and enucleation.

Dr. LEECH: Notes on New Remedies.

The members will dine together at the Angel Hotel after the meeting.

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

96, Mosley Street, Manchester, April 8th, 1879.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.

THE spring meeting of this Branch will be held at Tynemouth, on Tuesday, April 29th. Gentlemen who are desirous of reading papers, introducing patients, exhibiting pathological specimens, or making other communications, are requested to signify their intention to the secretary at their earliest convenience.

T. W. BARRON, M.B., *Honorary Secretary.*

10, Old Elvet, Durham, March, 1879.

MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE next meeting will be held at Louth, during the month of May: President, A. MERCER ADAM, M.D. Members desiring to read papers are requested to communicate with

C. HARRISON, *Hon. Sec.*

Lincoln, March 1879.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE fourth ordinary meeting of the session was held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday evening, March 6th: Dr. HENSLEY, President, in the chair. There were also present thirty members and two visitors.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were elected members of the Association and of the Branch: F. R. Cross, F.R.C.S. Eng., Clifton; W. J. Tivy, Esq., Clifton.

Papers.—The following papers were read.

1. Dr. Swayne read a paper on the question, Are First Labours more Dangerous than others? This led to a discussion in which Messrs. Fowler, Waugh, Stone, and Drs. Lawrence and Spender took part, and Dr. Swayne briefly replied.

2. Dr. Cole gave a Year's Experience of Gall-Stones. Drs. Swayne, Davey, Spender, and Brabazon, and Mr. Stone made observations.

3. Dr. A. E. Aust Lawrence read a paper on Common Errors in Gynæcology, on which Dr. Swayne and others made some remarks.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT.

THE seventieth meeting of this district was held at the Cottage Hospital, Ashford, on Thursday, March 6th, at 3 o'clock; Mr. E. B. TERRY of Woodchurch presided.

Communications.—The following papers were read.

Mr. T. Whitehead Reid: Report on Microscopical Appearances of Casts in Case of Membranous Laryngitis.

Dr. Bowles: Sore-Throat or Diphtheria.

Mr. W. Sheppard: Cases of Puerperal Convulsions.

Next Meeting.—Mr. Reid (Canterbury) was elected the President of the next meeting, which will be held at Canterbury on Thursday, May 8th.

Dinner.—The members dined together; the President in the chair.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE sixth and last ordinary meeting of the session 1878-9 was held in the Queen's College, Birmingham, on March 13th, 1879. Present: Dr. TIBBITS, in the chair, and thirty members.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were elected members of the Branch:—Mr. Cureton of Shrewsbury; Mr. Westwood Moore of West Bromwich; Dr. Eagar and Mr. H. H. Smith of Stourbridge; Mr. Holbeche and Dr. White of Birmingham.

Pelvic Tumour: Abdominal Section.—Mr. LAWSON TAIT brought forward a case of a pelvic tumour in which he had performed abdominal section in October last. The patient had complained of severe paroxysmal pain, which did not coincide with menstruation, but was clearly periodic. The menstrual function was still in existence. The tumour was diagnosed to be cystic; and when the abdomen was opened, under antiseptic precautions, it was found to consist of a number of cysts filled with the serous fluid characteristic of retained menses. As many of the cysts as could be reached were emptied and drained by tubes into the vagina. Unfortunately, one of the punctures had passed through the pouch of Douglas, and this, probably, was the cause of the unfortunate result. *Post mortem* examination showed clearly that the cysts were formed by occlusion of the right Fallopian tube, and the retention of menstrual fluid. The left tube was perfectly patent.

Case of Mr. Thomas Millerchip of Coventry. On the motion of Mr. SAMPSON GAMGEE, seconded by Mr. J. F. WEST, it was resolved, *nem. con.*:—That the President, the Treasurer, the Honorary Secretaries, and Mr. J. F. West, be a committee to draw up a memorial to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, praying for a mitigation of the sentence on Thomas Millerchip; and that the honorary secretaries be directed to forward the memorial to members of the Branch for signature. Immediately after the meeting of the Branch, the Committee met and drew up a memorial, a copy of which was at once sent to each member of the Branch.

[The memorial was published in the JOURNAL of March 22nd, page 453.]

Resignation of Dr. Sawyer.—A letter was read from Dr. Sawyer, resigning, on account of increasing engagements, the office of honorary secretary, which he has held for nearly five years.

Nomination of Officers.—Members of the Branch were nominated to act as President-elect, Secretaries, Treasurer, Members of Council, and representatives in the Council of the Association for the ensuing session. The elections for these offices will be held at the annual meeting.

Papers.—The following papers were read.

1. Dr. JAMES THOMPSON of Leamington read a paper entitled,

the Mortality of General Practice. A discussion followed, in which Dr. Saundby and Mr. Lawson Tait took part.

2. Dr. INGLEBY MACKENZIE of Rugby read a paper on Change of Character in Disease during its Progress, with Cases.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT.

A MEETING was held on March 13th, at the Queen's Hotel, Upper Norwood; JOHN BLACKWELL, Esq., in the chair. Twenty-four members and visitors were present.

Secretary.—It was proposed by Dr. LANCHESTER, and seconded by Mr. ECCLES, and carried, that Dr. Galton be re-elected Secretary.

Communications.—1. Dr. Galton exhibited a Heart with abnormal distribution from the arch of the aorta.—2. Dr. R. J. Lee exhibited and explained his Steam-draft Inhaler for Whooping Cough, etc.—3. Dr. Braxton Hicks read a Contribution to the Symmetrical Grouping of Acute Visceral Disturbances.—4. Mr. Sidney Turner read Notes on some Cases of Hysteria.

Dinner.—Seventeen members and visitors sat down to dinner.

THAMES VALLEY BRANCH.

A MEETING of this Branch was held at the Griffin Hotel, Kingston, on Thursday, March 20th, 1879: C. F. MAUNDER, Esq., F.R.C.S., President, in the Chair.

Dr. ALFRED WILTSHIRE read a paper on So-called Ulceration of the Os Uteri.

Mr. G. FARR WHITE read a paper on Abscess of the Liver, and gave notes of some cases.

Sixteen members and one visitor were present, and afterwards dined together.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: SPRING MEETING.

THE spring meeting of this Branch was held at the Queen's Hotel, Barnsley, on Wednesday, March 19th.

Papers.—The following papers were read.

Dr. Rabagliati on Struma.

Dr. Thomas on some Cases of Bright's Disease.

Mr. Jones, a Case of the Absence of the Left Subclavian Artery.

Mr. Atkinson on the Results of the Antiseptic Treatment of Compound Fractures, as compared with the Older Methods.

Dinner.—After the meeting, the members dined together at the Queen's Hotel.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CATHETER-GAUGE FOR MEASURING THE PUPIL.

SIR,—Mr. Hutchinson, in a paper on the symptom-significance of different states of the pupil (*Brain*, part i, 1878), says that, having felt the need of some easy means of measuring the pupil, and of expressing its size in note-taking with more accuracy than the adjectives in common use attain, he has been in the habit of late of employing as a pupilometer the perforated plate used to measure bougies. Dr. Gowers, in his paper on Syphilitic Neuroses, published in the JOURNAL for March 1st, remarks that Mr. Hutchinson's method is less convenient to physicians than to surgeons, and that the diameter in fractions of an inch or *millimètres* is a far more convenient mode of statement.

Now, it is evident that, if some observers describe the pupil as being of the size of a certain number of the catheter-gauge, while others give its diameter in fractions of an inch, much confusion is likely to arise in comparing reports of such cases; more especially as, there being no standard English catheter-gauge, the sizes are liable to vary according to the maker of the instrument. Mr. Hutchinson's description of his own gauge well shows the absence of any definite system; thus No. 1 measures two-thirds of a line, No. 2 one line, No. 4 one line and a half, No. 8 two lines and a quarter, and so on, with more or less irregularity, up to No. 17, of which the measurement is four lines and a half.

If both physicians and surgeons would use the French scale, in which the number placed opposite each perforation in the plate accurately represents its circumference in *millimètres*, the difficulty would be entirely obviated, and the advantages of an easy and uniform mode of measurement would be gained. Of course, the method would never be generally adopted if it entailed the carrying about of an ordinary metal gauge. This, however, is quite unnecessary, as a perforated card, including the numbers from 1 to 30 (that is, from 1 *millimètre* to 30 *millimètres* in circumference), and which seems to be perfectly well adapted for the purpose, is sold by Rondeau Frères, 68, Rue J.-J. Rousseau, Paris.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

ARTHUR COOPER.

25, Welbeck Street, March 4th, 1879.

THE TEACHING OF MIDWIFERY.

SIR,—Dr. Matthews Duncan's letter in your last issue is, I think, a little misleading. Of course we have clinical winter lectures on gynaecology, practical midwifery, etc., at King's College, as well as at St. Bartholomew's; and such is the case at all the London schools. My letter, however, referred to systematic teaching only. To accomplish the feat of giving a course of above seventy lectures in three months, it is necessary to deliver six lectures per week. I believe it is the fact that, when Dr. Duncan first came to London, he increased the number of lectures from four per week (the number formerly given at St. Bartholomew's, as at other London schools) to six, *ex proprio motu*, and with a commendable zeal which calls to mind a well-known old proverb. The fact that he did so strengthens my argument that it is impossible to teach the subject in the usual course. To my mind, six lectures weekly involve a strain which is likely to be prejudicial both to the teacher and the student. Be this as it may, the Committee of Reference, in its new scheme, only requires attendance on forty lectures; and it is obvious that it has no right to expect that the deficiency of its proposed curriculum shall be supplemented by such spontaneous energy on the part of the teacher.—I am, etc.,

W. S. PLAYFAIR.

31, George Street, Hanover Square, W., March 29th, 1879.

BLOOD-LETTING.

SIR,—Will you permit me to put a question, to which some of your correspondents may oblige me with an answer? Having retired from the practice of my profession nearly twenty years ago, this question has often presented itself to my mind: Has blood-letting been entirely discarded from practice in the therapeutic treatment of disease?

In my early days, some sixty or seventy years ago, it was largely and frequently employed, especially in acute inflammatory diseases, and, I still believe, with very happy results. A patient suffering from acute pneumonia obtained great and immediate relief from the abstraction of sixteen, eighteen, or twenty ounces of blood, and often the bleeding was repeated on any aggravation of symptoms. Is this practice now still pursued, or is reliance in such cases placed on other remedies?

I am sufficiently conscious that, at the time referred to, bleeding was too frequently, and perhaps too largely, had recourse to; but is it not possible that an opposite error may now obtain? At present, the pendulum may vibrate too far in the opposite direction. Does this arise from fashion or prejudice, or from the great advance of the knowledge of diseases, of physiology, pathology, or therapeutics; or, as has been supposed, from a change in the type or character of the human system in England since the first eruption of cholera in 1831?—I remain, yours truly,

T. M. GREENHOW.

Newton Hall, Leeds, February 2nd, 1879.

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY MANAGEMENT.

IMPORTANT TO CLUB DOCTORS.

AN action was lately brought, in the Northallerton County Court, by Mr. Henry Stronghair against the Treasurer of the Providential Lodge of Odd Fellows, to recover the sum of £4 11s., which had been paid for the services of a medical man not connected with the club. The plaintiff had been a member of the lodge for some years. In June 1876, he was at Sunderland, and, on the 4th of that month, he had to return home on account of illness. Dr. Richmond, the lodge surgeon, attended him until the 11th of the same month. During the night of the 11th, the patient became worse, and his relatives thought he was dying. Early on the morning of the 12th, his father went for Dr. Richmond. As it happened, that gentleman had been up all night, and was still in bed. So he sent to say that he would see the patient shortly, and, until he had done so, would not give him any medicine. The father, on his return, found his son still worse; so he went back to Dr. Richmond's house to say that he must come at once. To this second message, the same answer was returned as before. Accordingly, the father sent up to say that, if Dr. Richmond did not come at once, he would be forced to get some other medical man, as his son was only just alive. Dr. Richmond replied that he would not attend; he might get whoever he liked. He, therefore, went to Mr. Brown. That gentleman stated in evidence that, when he saw the plaintiff, he was suffering from a most severe attack of meningitis; and that, if he had not had immediate attendance, the consequences might have been serious. His Honour gave a verdict for the plaintiff. The lodge employed a medical man to attend the members. It entered into a contract, and in this case that contract had been broken. He looked upon Dr. Richmond as the agent of the lodge; and, if he did not fulfil his duty, the lodge was accountable.

sanitary supervision of the borough seems to be well looked after, and several important improvements (including the purchase of the undertaking of the Waterworks Company by the corporation) were effected during the year. Dr. Wright's tables are, as might be expected, peculiarly valuable and elaborate.

POOLE.—During 1878, 424 births were registered in this borough, and 247 deaths, the mortality being at the rate of 21.89 per 1,000. No less than 85 deaths occurred in children under five years of age, which is by far too high a proportion. Diarrhoea caused 10 and enteric fever 5 deaths. None of the other zymotic diseases were very fatal. Typhus fever is credited with one death; but this is evidently a mistake, and must have been questioned, even if the comprehensive statement of the cause of death "ovaritis, enteritis, quinsy, typhus fever five days" did not cast some suspicion on it. Phthisis was fatal in 25, and bronchitis, pneumonia, etc., in 47 cases. The statement of sanitary improvements effected during the year shows Mr. Lawton to be very energetic in the performance of his duties.

REDDITCH.—The report of Mr. Page for 1878 is very interesting and extremely exhaustive. It is impossible to do justice to it within the limits of a short paragraph, but it may be stated that in addition to an elaborate review of the vital statistics of the year, Mr. Page appends a series of recommendations with regard to the sanitary improvements that are necessary to put the place into a more wholesome state. Amongst them are the efficient drainage of the district, the provision of a hospital for infectious diseases (urgently needed), the energetic repression of nuisances, and a better and more efficient system of scavenging. The total number of deaths registered during the year was 266, giving the enormous death-rate of 31.1. Of these no less than 104 were from zymotic diseases. Scarlet fever was terribly prevalent. As many as 277 cases came under the cognizance of the Medical Officer of Health, and 77 deaths occurred from it. This, in a population of 8,630 people, is something very terrible. Mr. Page promises to write a special report as to the cause, origin, and distribution of the epidemic, which we shall await with great interest. Other zymotic diseases were unusually fatal; in fact, the zymotic death-rate was as high as 12.0 per 1,000. The infantile mortality was, moreover, very great, 140 deaths occurring between one and five years, and generally the mortality returns indicate, 'what is fully borne out in the report, that Redditch is in a very bad sanitary condition indeed.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

BARRON, Gerald E., M.B., appointed Medical Officer to the Caterham District of the Goodstone Union.
DALE, Henry R., L.R.C.P.Ed., appointed Medical Officer to the Sunderland District of the Sunderland Union.
RIORDAN, R. A., L.R.C.P.Ed., appointed Medical Officer to the Dilleagh District of the Youghal Union.
ROBBINS, James, M.B., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Workhouse of the Leeds Union.
ROBERTSON, R., M.D., appointed Medical Officer to No. 4 District of the Parish of Liverpool.
SINCLAIR, J., M.D., appointed Medical Officer to No. 9 District of the Parish of Liverpool.

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 7th instant; and when eligible will be admitted to the pass examination.

Messrs. F. G. Robinson, John Whitaker, H. J. Fletcher, J. T. Rogerson, Isaac Blore, Malcolm Webb, Thomas Harris, and James Hayes, students of the Manchester School; J. W. H. Brown, J. W. Hopkins, J. W. Dearden, Hugh Kershaw, F. H. Mayo, and John Ashby, of the Leeds School; Alexander Barron, J. T. Joseph, and J. G. Brown, of the Liverpool School; C. W. Robinson, C. H. Milburn, and William Robinson, of the Newcastle School; J. W. Fraser, G. W. W. Ashdown, and G. R. O'Donovan, of the Edinburgh School; Cæsar Sherrard, of the Cork School; J. S. Bolton, of the Birmingham School; David Taylor, of the Belfast School; G. H. Cowan, of St. Thomas's Hospital; and T. H. Chittenden, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The following gentlemen passed on the 8th instant.

Messrs. Joseph Clegg, Samuel Butterworth, C. J. Parkinson, and W. R. Dakin, of the Manchester School; J. W. Ellis, and Robert Williams, of the Liverpool School; A. T. Holdsworth, and R. A. Fitch, of the Birmingham School; Thomas Sharples, and C. S. Kilham, of the Sheffield School; J. P. Bush, and W. C. Humphreys, of the Bristol School; W. P. Herringham, and C. A. James, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; W. J. Sprott, of the Belfast School; D. P. Harris, of the London Hospital; and Thomas Aldous, of University College Hospital.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, April 3rd, 1879.

Bentham, Newton, Victoria Park Road, South Hackney
Bunn, Charles Grinling, 11, Finsbury Square, E.C.
Duncan, William Archdeacon, St. Thomas's Hospital
Flanagan, Harold Edward Bickerson, Woolwich
Laing, William Alexander Gordon, Brough, Penrith

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

Pickering, Robert Whitmore, Manchester Hospital
Pound, Francis Joseph, London Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

Particulars of those marked with an asterisk will be found in the advertisement columns.

The following vacancies are announced:—

*ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE DISTRICT INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon. Salary to commence at £80 per annum, with residence and maintenance. Applications before May 3rd.

CASTLEBAR UNION—Medical Officer for Castlebar Dispensary District, North Division, No. 2. Salary, £110 per annum, exclusive of sanitary, registration, and vaccination fees. Also a Medical Officer for No. 1 South Division Dispensary District. Salary, £110 per annum, £15 yearly as Sanitary Officer, with registration and vaccination fees. Election for both appointments on the 19th instant.

*CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL—Surgical Registrar. Applications on or before April 26th.

*DEWSBURY AND DISTRICT GENERAL INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with residence, board, etc. Applications on or before April 18th.

*DUDLEY DISPENSARY—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £120 per annum. Applications on or before April 26th.

*EAST WARD UNION—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Orton District. Salary, £20 per annum, with the usual medical fees. Applications on or before April 18th.

*LIVERPOOL NORTHERN HOSPITAL—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £70 per annum, with residence and maintenance in the House. Applications not later than April 19th.

NOTTINGHAM DISPENSARY—Assistant Resident Surgeon. Salary, £160 per annum. Election on May 19th.

*ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND—Curator of the Museum. Salary, £250 per annum. Applications on or before May 31st.

*ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road—Physician for the Diseases of Women and an Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Hospital. Applications on or before April 30th.

*ST. PETER'S HOSPITAL, 54, Berners Street—House-Surgeon. Board and lodging and an honorarium of £25 given for the term of office of six months.

*SUNDERLAND AND BISHOPWEARMOUTH INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80, increasing annually to £100, with board and residence. Election on May 1st.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

BOURNS, N. W., M.R.C.S.E., appointed Resident House-Surgeon and Registrar to the Brompton Cancer Hospital, *vice* W. C. Jeffries, L.R.C.P.Ed., resigned.

MARTIN, Mr. F. W., appointed House-Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, *vice* Weiss, resigned.

*MESSETER, M. ARDEN, M.R.C.S., appointed Surgeon to the Guest Hospital, Dudley.

MESSUM, J. A. B. G., M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A., appointed House-Surgeon to the Dorset County Hospital, *vice* H. J. Capon, M.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.

PETERKIN, Alfred, appointed Medical Officer to the Joint Hospital of the Burghs of Partick, Hillhead, and Maryhill, *vice* G. S. Middleton, resigned.

WOODROFFE, J. F., M.B., appointed Medical Officer to the Bournemouth General Dispensary, *vice* J. R. Salter, M.R.C.S., resigned.

WOOLLETT, Sidney Winslow, M.R.C.S., appointed Assistant Resident Medical Officer to Sussex and Brandenburgh House Asylums, Hammersmith.

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.

MIDDLEMISS.—On April 3rd, the wife of George Middlemiss, L.R.C.P.E., etc., Skinnergate, Darlington, of a son.

THE annual meeting of the Artisans' Dwellings Company was held on Monday, Mr. Evelyn Ashley, M.P., in the chair. A net profit of £23,524 was reported on the year's operations, being an increase of £10,000 over that of the preceding year.

NAAS UNION.—All the patients in the Small-pox Hospital have been discharged, and no further cases have occurred. The hospital has remained open during fourteen months, and, in consideration of the extra duties performed by the medical officer (Dr. Falkener), the Board of Guardians last week unanimously voted him a gratuity of £30.

BEQUEST.—The late Mr. Patrick Whitty has left £200 to the Hospital for Incurables, Donnybrook, near Dublin.

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.

HOURS OF ATTENDANCE AT THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

CHARING CROSS.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1.30; Skin, M. Th., Dental, M. W. F., 9.30.

GUY'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, exc. Tu., 1.30; Obstetric, M. W. F., 1.30; Eye, M. Th., 1.30; Tu. F., 12.30; Ear, Tu. F., 12.30; Skin, Tu., 12.30; Dental, Tu. F., 12.

KING'S COLLEGE.—Medical, daily, 2; Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. Th. S., 2; o.p., M. W. F., 12.30; Eye, M. Th. S., 1; Ear, Th., 2; Skin, Th.; Throat, Th., 3; Dental, Tu. F., 10.

LONDON.—Medical, daily exc. S., 2; Surgical, daily, 1.30 and 2; Obstetric, M. Th., 1.30; o.p., W. S., 1.30; Eye, W. S., 9; Ear, S., 9.30; Skin, W., 9; Dental, Tu., 9.

MIDDLESEX.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1.30; o.p., W. S., 1.30; Eye, W. S., 8.30; Ear and Throat, Tu., 9; Skin, F., 4; Dental, daily, 9.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, M. Th. S., 2, o.p., W. S., 9; Eye, Tu. W. Th. S., 2; Ear, M., 2.30; Skin, F., 1.30; Larynx W., 11.30; Orthopaedic, F., 12.30; Dental, F., 9.

ST. GEORGE'S.—Medical and Surgical, M. Tu. F. S., 1; Obstetric, Tu. S., 1; o.p., Th., 2; Eye, W. S., 2; Ear, Tu., 2; Skin, Th., 1; Throat, M., 2; Orthopaedic, W., 2; Dental, Tu. S., 9; Th., 1.

ST. MARY'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.15; Obstetric, Tu. F., 9.30; o.p., Tu. F., 1.30; Eye, M. Th., 1.30; Ear, W. S., 2; Skin, Th., 1.30; Throat, W. S., 12.30; Dental, W. S., 9.30.

ST. THOMAS'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, except Sat., 2; Obstetric, M. Th., 2; o.p., W. F., 12.30; Eye, M. Th., 2; o.p., daily except Sat., 1.30; Ear, Tu., 12.30; Skin, Th., 12.30; Throat, Tu., 12.30; Children, S., 12.30; Dental, Tu. F., 10.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1 to 2; Obstetric, M. Tu. Th. F., 1.30; Eye, M. W. F., 2; Ear, S., 1.30; Skin, Tu., 1.30; S., 9; Throat, Th., 2.30; Dental, W., 10.3.

WESTMINSTER.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. F., 3; Eye, M. Th., 2.30; Ear, Tu. F., 9; Skin, Th., 1; Dental, W. S., 9.15.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

TUESDAY.—Pathological Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Discussion on Lardaceous Diseases continued: Dr. Rolfe: Iodine Reaction with Casein, Santonin, and Fibrin.—Reply by Dr. Dickinson. M. Parrot of Paris: Specimens of Bone Disease in Congenital Syphilis. Dr. Leech of Manchester: Specimens and Photographs from a Case of Addison's Disease.

WEDNESDAY.—Association of Surgeons practising Dental Surgery, 8.30 P.M. "Casual Communications".

THURSDAY.—Harveian Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. J. W. Langmore, "On Contracted Kidney in Young Subjects" (discussion); Dr. Buzzard, "Cases of Nerve Disease"; Dr. Cleveland, "Case of Recovery from an Excessive Dose of Chloral Hydrate"; Dr. Morton, "The Diphtheria Outbreak of Last Spring in North-West London".

FRIDAY.—Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Allen Sturge: A Case of Partial Epilepsy, apparently due to lesion of one of the vaso-motor centres in the brain (the patient to be exhibited). Dr. Allen Sturge: A Case of Rare Vaso-Motor Disturbance in the Leg. Mr. A. P. Gould: A Case of Amputation at the Hip-Joint, in which the iliac arteries were compressed *per rectum*. Dr. Crocker: A Case of Ichthyosis of unusual character. Mr. Hulke: A Case of Retention of Urine caused by impermeable urethral stricture, treated by tapping the bladder above the pubes, and later by external section of the stricture, a catheter passed through the bladder, and a staff *per penem*, as far as the obstruction, being used as guides.

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

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.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

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.

THE GOVERNMENT BILL.

SIR,—I appeal to you as the most fitting representative of all that is fair and honest, for a corner to express my view of this Bill. It is contained in a nutshell, and is simply this, that the so-called principle (I should say want of principle) in the Bill is to reduce Scotch doctors to the level of English apothecaries. The ordinary qualification of an average English medical student is low enough in all conscience, but it is perfectly unnecessary to level down the Scotch that the English may level up themselves. The fact is, the Duke of Richmond has not a mind of his own on the matter. First he would not, and then he would, approve of the extension of the Bill, so that the very promoter is not sure that he is doing right. Under these circumstances, let well alone. The Scotch universities, and especially Edinburgh, are now in the very heyday of their prosperity, and to interfere with them would be but a reckless specimen of Conservative plundering and blundering. But what is stranger of all is the apathy of the Scotch graduates themselves. I think they only want rousing. Why cannot the deans of the Scotch universities get up petitions signed by their respective graduates all over the kingdom? To a man almost, I am sure they would go shoulder to shoulder; and influential petitions such as they would be, would certainly have the very greatest influence. That is the suggestion of a friend of

SCOTLAND YET.

"FAIR PLAY" has certainly reason to complain that, at the time he was appointed house-surgeon, his attention was not called to the by-law of the hospital, which prohibited anyone who had held that office from practising within a radius of twelve miles for a term of seven years, under a penalty of £1000. The Secretary is to blame for this omission. Still it is clear that, for two years at least, during which time he continued to hold the appointment, "Fair Play" was aware of the by-law. Such being the case, we think that he was morally bound to act in accordance with it.

THE DENTAL DIPLOMA.

"METALLURGY" will be required to produce certificates of the following, prior to his examination for the dental diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons: Of having attended, at a recognised school, two courses of lectures upon each of the following subjects, namely: Dental anatomy and physiology (human and comparative), dental surgery, dental mechanics, and one course of lectures on metallurgy, by lecturers recognised by the College: Of having been engaged, during a period of not less than three years, in acquiring a practical familiarity with the details of mechanical dentistry, under the instruction of a competent practitioner: Of having attended at a recognised dental hospital, or in the dental department of a recognised general hospital, the practice of dental surgery during the period of two years. He may practise as a surgeon or general practitioner if he pleases during his period of dental education.

FREQUENT MICTURITION.

SIR,—Would some of your readers kindly inform me what treatment they have found most successful in checking, within reasonable limits, frequent micturition.

A lady aged 40, married, having three children, consulted me, stating that her life was rendered miserable owing to frequent calls to pass urine, and to inability to retain her urine, once the desire to empty the bladder came on. As a girl, she suffered in the same way. Then there was an interval of ten or fifteen years of comparative freedom, and now her old complaint has returned.

Some days, during the whole forenoon, she is obliged to obey calls to pass urine every ten or fifteen minutes. Unless she instantly complies with the call, she wets her underclothes. Generally, from two to four ounces are passed. The urine is straw-coloured, without deposit; slightly acid. The uterine functions are natural. She is of nervous temperament. A glass of beer at lunch brings on her complaint, which lasts probably till dinner hour. On soft warm days, she is much better; indeed, some days perfectly free of her complaint. Her general health is good.—Yours, etc.,

A MEMBER.

* * * Has our correspondent ascertained whether there is any local morbid condition which may account for the troublesome symptom described?

SUICIDAL HABITS.

SIR,—Can anything besides persuasion and warning be brought to bear on the following cases?

CASE 1.—The writer may be called to see, in consultation, a lady about whom it is reported to him by an anxious relative that she is "living on" morphia used hypodermically; that this is countenanced by her regular medical attendant; that several other practitioners have, at different times, seen her in consultation, and remonstrated in vain, and that she is believed to be free from organic disease. (The friend's report is, of course, subject to confirmation.)

CASE 2.—A married lady, a fervid vegetarian, chiefly on religious grounds, is undergoing alarming loss of flesh and strength; but is quite unshaken either by that or by the anxiety of her husband and friends.—Yours faithfully,

CLINICUS.

* * * What else than persuasion and warning can "Clinicus" have in his mind? Physical compulsion? And if so, by whom applied, and under what authority?

THE NEW SYDENHAM SOCIETY'S EDITION OF "MAYNE'S" LEXICON.

SIR,—I would like very much to express my entire concurrence in the opinions of your correspondent "Anxious", in the JOURNAL, regarding the New Sydenham Society's new edition of Mayne's Lexicon. This book is by far the most practically useful book on their list of proposed publications. Let them, for the next two years or so, carry it on alone, or along with only one or two books of the type of *Billoth*, and I am sure very few will be found to complain; at any rate, no one desires the repetition of the experiment of a book dragging its slow length along for the next fifteen or twenty years.—I am, etc.,

A MEMBER.

Glasgow.

CHRONIC ENTERITIS WITH HÆMORRHOIDS.

SIR,—Would any of your numerous correspondents suggest any further treatment in a case of chronic enteritis with hæmorrhoids. The suffering is severe and attended with considerable tenesmus, and large patches and shreds are expelled with the stools. There are intervals of ease, and these sometimes continue for a fortnight, after which the pains return with increased severity. I have tried usual remedies given in medical works, but with only temporary benefit.—Yours faithfully,

DUM SPIRO SPERO.

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

SIR,—About six weeks ago, I inserted an advertisement for an assistant, when I received, amongst others, a letter from a firm of medical agents, asking me to call upon them, as they thought I should suit a client of theirs. On calling, they gave me the address of Dr. P., to whom I wrote and ultimately went, the agents taking no further notice beyond referring two other gentlemen to him at intervals of a week. When he wrote to them, saying he had engaged me, they then sent him an account for 10s. 6d. "charge for procuring him an assistant", and, a fortnight afterwards, favoured me with an account for £1 1s., "fee for introduction to Dr. P.".

Is the last charge legal? They state in their advertisements, "fee for principals, 10s. 6d.; applicants registered free daily".

I may mention that I was not informed of any charge when I saw them, neither did I enter into any contract, either verbal or written, and that I called upon them at their request.—I am, sir, yours obediently, A. B.

Our correspondent need not be under any apprehension as regards his liability to pay the fee claimed, as we are satisfied that no county court judge would decide adversely to him, if the agents should be so ill-advised as to press for payment.

MORE CHINESE MATERIA MEDICA.

AMONG the pharmaceutical products exhibited at the Paris Exhibition in the Chinese section were the following. Bear's gall—a sovereign antidote; Bezoar stones—an infallible panacea; skins of the python—for paralysis and rheumatism; dried fowls' gizzards—as a substitute for pepsine; inner pellicle of eggs—for jaundice; human urinary calculi—for renal complaints; hippocampus (seahorse)—for women in confinement, the woman to hold one in her hand; powdered elephant's skin—rheumatic complaints; fossil bones—for chorea and fever; ashes of roasted grasshoppers—for headache; tincture of scorpions—stimulant; decoction of small green serpents—for skin diseases; tiger's bones in jelly—a costly medicine, said to possess high tonic virtues; inside of a stag's horn—colds and bronchitis; buck's sinews—for rheumatism and sciatica; glue made from asses' skins—enjoys a great reputation as a remedy in lung diseases; the dried excrement of silkworms—for eye diseases; dried earthworms—for secret diseases; toad's mucus—this is prepared by keeping live toads in a vessel half-filled with flour; when the flour is sufficiently impregnated with the slimy excretions of the toads, it is separated and dried—this remedy is used in convulsions.

TEMPORA MUTANTUR, NOS ET MUTAMUR IN ILLIS.

SIR,—The enclosed copy of a resolution passed by the Weekly Board of the Sheffield General Infirmary, and sent to the existing staff, July 1st, 1836, may be interesting to show the change in treatment in the present day. The Infirmary, during the year alluded to, had had 952 in-patients.

"A bill for leeches amounting to £30 4s. 7½d. from M. S., for the last three months, having been this day presented for payment, the Board feel it necessary to express their desire that the medical gentlemen would be pleased to take into serious consideration the practicability of reducing this branch of expenditure, the charges for leeches during the past year having amounted to £98 2s. 7½d., though the House has been supplied at the rate of 1s. 6d. and 1s. 9d. per dozen, instead of 2s., 2s. 6d., and 3s. formerly paid."

Thinking this fact worth recording, I remain, yours faithfully,
Sheffield, March 31st, 1879.

ARTHUR JACKSON.

OPIMUM-SMOKING.

THE Chemist and Druggist give an interesting account of an experiment in opium-smoking, made by Dr. Michlucho Maclay upon himself during his stay in Hong Kong. The experiment was made at the Chinese Club, where every convenience for smoking opium is to be found. Dr. Clouth of Hong Kong took the necessary observations, and his notes may be summarised as follows. Herr Maclay was in normal health, and had fasted eighteen hours before commencing the experiment. He had never smoked tobacco. Twenty-seven pipes, equivalent to 107 grains of the opium used by the Chinese, were smoked in two hours and three-quarters, at tolerably regular intervals. The third removed the feeling of hunger caused by his long fast, and his pulse rose from 72 to 80. The fourth and fifth caused slight heaviness and desire for sleep, but there was no hesitation in giving correct answers, though he could not guide himself about the room. After the seventh pipe, the pulse fell to 70. The twelfth pipe was followed by singing in the ears, and after the thirteenth he laughed heartily, though without any cause that he can remember. Questions asked at this time were answered only after a pause, and not always correctly. He had for some time ceased to be conscious of his actions. After the twenty-fifth pipe, questions asked in a loud tone were not answered. After the last pipe had been smoked, he remarked, "I do not hear well." Forty minutes later, there was a slight return of consciousness, and he said, "I am quite bewildered. May I smoke some more? Is the man with the pipe gone already?" Fifteen minutes later (4.55 P.M.), he was able to go home, and then retired to bed. He woke the next morning at 3 A.M., and made a hearty meal, after his fast of thirty-three hours. During the next day, he felt as if he had been in a great hollow in his head, as well as a slight headache. The organs of locomotion were first affected, next came sight and hearing, but Herr Maclay is very positive that there were no dreams, hallucinations, or visions of any sort whatever.

PHOSPHIDE OF ARSENIC.

SIR,—Perhaps some of the chemical or pharmaceutical readers of the JOURNAL can inform me whether there is such a thing as phosphide of arsenic (not the liquid so-called chloro-phosphide). I have long thought that a combination of phosphide of arsenic and (red) iodide of mercury (in pill by preference) would be an improvement upon Donovan's solution. I have failed to obtain any information of phosphide of arsenic by private inquiry.—Yours faithfully,
W. J. M.

SUBDIVISION OF METALS.

A WRITER in *New Remedies* has been examining under the microscope homœopathic medicines, and concludes that, contrary to the hitherto prevailing opinion, metallic and other hard insoluble substances, such as gold, mercury, carbon, silica, etc., cannot be subdivided by continued trituration beyond a certain limit (about 1-10,000th of an inch), and that it is not possible that any particles of the original substance could be present in any trituration higher than the third centesimal. He states that in centesimal trituration (one of substance and ninety-nine of milk sugar), the action of the pestle is mainly confined to the sugar, while the foreign substance receives but little of the power employed.

A SPECULATION AS TO THE CAUSE OF PLAGUE.

SIR,—I have read all the articles on plague which have lately appeared in the JOURNAL, and have therefrom formed an opinion as to its etiology, which appears to myself to be well founded, but which, with your permission, I should like to submit to the judgment of the profession.

Dr. Cabiadis says, "The origin of plague, and the causes that bring it into activity, are utterly unknown". He mentions incidentally, however, that those most predisposed to it are the very poor—"it attacks exclusively the poor"; and, whilst the poor of Kerbelia, who "can at all times live on a meat diet", enjoyed complete immunity from the disease, those of Hillah, on the other hand, who lived on "barley-bread, dates, and onions, with sometimes fish in a putrescent state", were particularly liable to it.

Again, the present outbreak of plague in south-eastern Europe originated at Vetlianka and other villages on the banks of the Volga, "where the inhabitants are all engaged in fishing, and no other industry exists". At some of the fishing stations, "the tanks used for salting the fish were in a state of revolting foulness". It is also stated that syphilis is present in the infected districts. Now, my theory is, that the putrescent fish are the *fons et origo mali*. These generate the specific virus, which, when fully developed in the human body, gives rise to the train of symptoms characteristic of plague. What that specific virus is, we do not know, any more than we know what the virus of typhus fever and of syphilis is, to both of which diseases plague bears certain resemblances, or at least analogies.

"Two or three months previously to the manifestation of plague in Mesopotamia, glandular swellings, free from fever, prevailed in that country"; then plague broke out, and increased *pari passu* with the temperature up to 86 deg. Fahr. When it began to diminish, and when the summer heat reached 113 deg. Fahr., it ceased suddenly, and "apyretic glandular swellings reappeared, and continued for about two months longer". These were all, in my opinion, cases of plague alike; but the middle cases were the worst, for in them, two causes were at work, both the exciting cause and infection: for that plague is infectious, there cannot, I think, be any doubt.

Nor is it inconsistent with the theory above enunciated, that, at the high temperature of 113 deg. Fahr., the plague should cease. A very high temperature is not favourable to putrefaction any more than a very low one.

I would wish to throw out the hint that probably the sense of smell may be turned to account, not only in diagnosing, but in grouping diseases. Yellow fever has the smell of mice; everyone knows the smell of acute rheumatism. Sir William Jenner says he knows the smell of tertiary syphilis; primary syphilis has, on the genitals, somewhat the smell of phosphoric acid. The plague, Dr. Döppner says, has the smell of honey. It would be interesting to know if that is anything like the smell of tertiary syphilis. I have observed that fish diet aggravates the roseola and glandular swellings of secondary syphilis. If plague owe its origin to putrescent fish, this would be a further coincidence, as in it there is also a petechial rash in bad cases. This, however, is mere speculation; but the day may come when medical science, aided by chemical science and the microscope, may be able to isolate the specific virus of each disease, and declare the cause of their points of similarity and difference.—I am, yours, etc.,
Muthill, March 14th, 1879.

J. DIAMOND, M.D.,
formerly of Grenada, Jamaica.

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; Daily Courier; Northern Echo; Durham Journal; 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:—

Dr. Finlayson, Glasgow; Dr. M. T. Sadler, Barnsley; Dr. W. Hollis, Brighton; Mr. C. M. Tidy, London; Messrs. Reed and Waymann, Downham; Mr. Middlemiss, Darlington; Mr. W. T. Ramsden, Ravensthorpe; W. M., Killarney; Dr. R. Richardson, Exmouth; Dr. T. F. Chavasse, Birmingham; Dr. A. E. Sansom, London; Dr. S. Drew, Worley; Mr. T. Holmes, London; Dr. D. Davies, Bristol; Mr. Arthur A. Kinsey, London; Dr. J. McDonnell, Dublin; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. F. Clarke, Southborough; Dr. T. J. Walker, Peterborough; Dr. S. W. Smith, Pershore; Mr. J. Maclaren, Larbert; Mr. S. Bagley, Stockport; Mr. E. Goadby, York; Dr. S. Sullivan, Cork; Dr. G. C. O. Will, Aberdeen; Dr. C. Rickett, Birkenhead; Dr. Humphry, Cambridge; Mr. G. Field, London; Dr. G. Hughes, Middlewich; Dr. R. Liveing, London; Dr. V. Poulain, London; Dr. Bird, London; Dr. W. Kelly, Taunton; Miss Thorn, Bridge of Allan; Dr. F. W. Barry, Settle; Mr. Street, London; Messrs. Young and Postans, London; Mr. C. J. Wright, Leeds; Dr. J. E. Burton, Liverpool; Dr. G. de G. Griffith, London; Mr. C. W. Chubb, Devonport; Mr. C. D. Hillmay, Harleston; Messrs. Taylor and Co., London; Dr. E. D. Dickson, Constantinople; Dr. J. P. H. Boileau, Netley; Mr. H. C. Brettell, Dudley; Dr. C. Mackey, Brighton; Mr. F. M. Wright, London; Dr. A. Tuxford, Boston; Dr. F. Dick, Southsea; "A Subscriber"; Dr. R. Maclaren, Carlisle; Dr. J. Hardie, Manchester; Mr. W. J. Marsh, Truro; Dr. Robertson, Buxton; Mr. Pugin Thornton, London; Dr. Gairdner, Glasgow; Dr. Bucknill, London; Dr. T. Trollope, St. Leonard's-on-Sea; Mr. W. P. Thomas, Sheffield; Mr. A. R. Manby, Swaffham; Dr. J. Ashburton Thompson, London; Dr. Wilhelm Thier Waverly, Iowa, United States of America; Mr. J. M. Stone, London; Mr. W. Irving Page, Wimbledon; Dr. John Williams, London; Dr. Isaac Massey, Nottingham; Mr. G. Eastes, London; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London, etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Hunterian Oration, delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons of England on February 14th, 1879. By G. M. Humphry, M.D., F.R.S. London: Macmillan and Co. 1879.
The Pathology of Mind. By H. Maudsley, M.D. London: Macmillan and Co. 1879.