

desist from further operative procedures in the neighbourhood of the anus, and to perform colotomy by Amussat's operation in the left loin. This operation was accordingly performed. Meconium freely escaped, and within a few hours the infant was greatly relieved. An elastic tracheotomy-tube was inserted into the bowel through the wound in the loin, and had been worn continuously ever since. In this way, all troubles which might have arisen from contraction on the one hand, or prolapse on the other, were avoided. A year after the operation, it was noted that the child was well, and wore the elastic tube; faeces passing only once or twice in the week. The abdomen was, however, not distended. Two years after the operation, the note was the same, and the child, now nearly three years old, was shown to the Society, perfectly well in health, and still wearing the elastic tube in the loin. Instances of recovery, it was remarked, after the performance of colotomy for the relief of imperforate rectum, were extremely rare, and, probably, the case shown to the Society was the only one now in this country. The question as to the best operation to be performed in cases of imperforate rectum, in which the bowel could not be found at the outlet of the pelvis, was discussed, and Mr. Baker thought that, on the whole, a preference should be given to Amussat's rather than to Littré's method of colotomy.—Mr. BAKER, in answer to the chairman, said that a probe had not yet been passed down the bowel towards the anus, to find the termination of the intestine. He hoped to bring the case forward again at some future day.—Mr. G. BROWN thought that the operation in the infant in these cases might usually, as in this instance, be deferred until actual bulging of the distended bowel occurred, as it was then more easy to cut down upon it, and find it. He had kept a child under observation for ten days before bulging had occurred, when the operation was performed.

The Society then adjourned until October.

## SELECTIONS FROM JOURNALS.

### OBSTETRICS.

ON THE DURATION OF THE LIFE OF THE FŒTUS IN UTERO AFTER THE MOTHER'S DEATH.—This question has been carefully investigated by C. Garezky, in his inaugural dissertation, St. Petersburg, 1878 (and *Wien. Med. Woch.*, No. 22, 1879). He has collected 379 cases, in which the Caesarean operation was performed after death; 308 infants were extracted dead, 37 showed signs of life, 34 were born alive; but of these, only five remained alive for some time. The author then gives a sketch of Breslau's experiments on animals, and sums his conclusions up as follows. 1. The foetus undoubtedly survives the sudden death of the mother. 2. If it can be extracted in the course of the first six minutes, it may be born alive. 3. Six to ten minutes after the mother's death, the child may still be alive, though slightly asphyxiated. 4. Ten to twenty-six minutes after death, the infant is highly asphyxiated. 5. In a great many cases, the infants are either highly asphyxiated or dead after the first minute. 6. The shorter the time is which elapses between the cause of the mother's death and the ceasing of the cardiac action, the longer the foetus remains alive. 7. If the mother's death have been caused by some quickly acting poison, the chances for the child's life are greater than when it has been brought on by some other cause.

### MEDICINE.

UNDESCRIBED CAUSE OF REFLEX VERTIGO.—The following case is given by Dr. Erlenmeyer, in Nos. 44 and 45 of the *Deutsche Medicinische Wochenschrift* for 1878. The patient, a man aged 31, was suffering from stricture of the urethra, owing to gonorrhoea. For some years past, he had been subject to peculiar disturbances, which came on in the form of paroxysms. First, the left arm became stiff and heavy; then the left foot and the right arm (the right leg always remained free), the patient feeling as if his limbs were filled with lead. He never lost consciousness, but felt giddy, and had a strong tendency to fall to the left. This sensation of giddiness was also experienced whenever the patient attempted to micturate, the limbs remaining free at such times. He complained of a continuous feeling of pressure on the forehead; had a gastric catarrh; the tendon reflex was much increased. Nothing abnormal could be detected in either his eyes or ears. Thinking that his central nervous system might be affected, he was first treated with nitrate of silver taken by the mouth, and enemata, and daily rubbed with cold water. Seeing that he derived no benefit from this treatment, the author next resorted to dilating the stricture of the urethra by means of bougies; and this time he succeeded in curing the patient. He describes this vertigo as *vertigo ab urethra laesa*, but does not offer any explanation concerning the feeling of stiffness in the extremities.

## SURGERY.

RESECTION OF SEVERAL RIBS FOR ENCHONDROMA.—At the last meeting of the Society of German Surgeons, Dr. Kolaczek of Breslau showed a woman aged 40, in whom a great part of the left anterior wall of the thorax had been removed by operation, so that a large portion of the lung and of the heart were only covered by skin. The inspiratory and expiratory movements of the lung, and the contractions of the heart, could be seen even at a distance; the contractions of the left auricle and ventricle could be distinctly felt with the hand. The patient was admitted into the hospital at Breslau last year, on account of a tumour occupying the left front of the chest. It was an enchondroma as large as a man's head, and was intimately connected with the ribs, from which it sprang. Extirpation was commenced by a vertical incision over the greater circumference of the tumour. The skin was intact, and was easily dissected off. The ribs were now divided on each side by bone-forceps; the costal pleura, which was intimately adherent opposite the tumour, was of necessity removed. There was thus left in the chest-wall an opening more than a handbreadth in size, extending from the third to the sixth rib, in which the lung and the pericardium with the pulsating heart lay exposed. The opening was covered with the skin; drainage-tubes were placed in the upper and lower angles of the wound, and a third was introduced into an opening made in the posterior part of the thorax. The operation was done under antiseptic precautions. The pleura was washed out with a two per cent. solution of carbolic acid, and Lister's dressing was applied. The healing process was uninterrupted; and at the end of four weeks, the patient was discharged with only a small fistulous opening at the upper angle of the wound. The lung was remarkably collapsed, so that the integument was drawn in towards the cavity of the chest; it was only when the patient coughed that it rose to the level of the chest-wall. The heart was not displaced. The woman was in good health, and able to work; but unfortunately there was indication of a return of the disease in the end of one of the ribs.—Professor von Langenbeck said that he had met with a similar case. It was one of sarcoma of the thoracic wall. After extirpation, the patient at first appeared to be doing well; but she died at the end of six months. He attributed the death to chronic poisoning with carbolic acid.

## REPORTS AND ANALYSES

AND

## DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS

IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, DIETETICS, AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES.

### PREPARATIONS OF NITRO-GLYCERINE.

WE have received from Mr. Martindale of New Cavendish Street several specimens of preparations of nitro-glycerine. Considerable interest has recently been attracted to this drug by the discovery of its power of checking the paroxysms of angina pectoris. In its action on the blood-vessels it is allied to nitrite of amyl; and it is found that a drop or two of a one per cent. alcoholic solution, given in a little water during a paroxysm, will afford almost instant relief. For patients of sedentary habits, this solution, which is perfectly tasteless, is undoubtedly the most convenient preparation; while for those who are much away from home, Mr. Martindale has succeeded in putting the drug into the form of pills and lozenges, or "tablets". The pills can be made of any strength; but the dose usually given is a hundredth or a fiftieth of a grain every four hours, an extra dose being taken immediately the pain is felt. They are almost inactive when swallowed whole, but speedily afford relief if chewed in the mouth. The pills have a slight sweet chocolate flavour. In a case of angina pectoris in which they were prescribed, the relief afforded was most marked. The lozenges, which are evidently made from chocolate-paste, are of three sizes, corresponding to one, two, and three minims of the one per cent. solution. They are certainly active; even the smallest producing the full physiological action of the drug, whilst they are agreeable to the taste. It is no easy matter to obtain nitro-glycerine in combination with a fatty substance, and Mr. Martindale is to be congratulated on the way in which he has overcome the difficulty.

We have also received a one per cent. solution of nitro-glycerine in ether, but this is hardly likely to come into general use. It has no advantage over the alcoholic solution; and the taste and smell of the ether are apt to hang about the patient unpleasantly.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL : NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held at the offices of the Association, 161A, Strand, on Wednesday, the 9th day of July next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE,

161A, Strand, London, June 12th, 1879.

*General Secretary.*

### METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH : EAST LONDON AND SOUTH ESSEX DISTRICT.

THE next meeting of this district will be held at "The King's Head", Chigwell, on Tuesday, June 17th, at 4.20 P.M.

After the meeting, the members will dine together. Dinner tickets, exclusive of wine and attendance, 7s. each.

A. GRANT, *Honorary Secretary.*

370, Commercial Road, E., June 5th, 1879.

### YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield, on Wednesday, June 18th, at 2.30 P.M.

The members will dine together at the Wharnccliffe Restaurant at 5.30 P.M. Tickets, 6s. 6d. each.

W. PROCTER, M.D., *Local Secretary.*

York, June 4th, 1879.

### BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, on Tuesday, June 24th. The Chair will be taken by the President, Dr. TIBBITS, of Warwick, at 3 P.M.

An address will be delivered by the President-elect, Dr. JAMES JOHNSTON, of Birmingham.

The annual dinner will also take place at the Grand Hotel, at 5 P.M. precisely, for the convenience of country members. Dinner tickets, exclusive of wine, 5s. each.

JAMES SAWYER, M.D.,

EDWARD MALINS, M.D.,

*Honorary Secretaries.*

Birmingham, May 23rd, 1879.

### SOUTHERN BRANCH.

THE sixth annual meeting of this Branch will be held at Southlands, Ryde (by the kind invitation of Mr. Barrow, the President-Elect), on Wednesday, June 25th, 1879. The general meeting will commence at 12.30.

Members desirous of reading papers or other communications at this meeting are requested to forward the titles to the honorary secretary before the 21st of June. No communications must exceed seven minutes in length, and no subsequent speech must exceed five minutes.

The address will be delivered by the President-Elect at 2.30 P.M.

During the afternoon, an excursion will be made to Sandown and other places of interest in the locality.

J. WARD COUSINS, M.D., *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.*

### LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE forty-third annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Town Hall, Lancaster, on Wednesday, June 25th. The Chair will be taken by the President, Dr. LESLIE JONES, at 2.30 P.M.—The following communications have been promised.

E. Lund, Esq.: A Case of Distorted Knee treated by Dr. Ogston's Method.

Dr. Davidson: A Case of High Temperature, with Pigment in the Blood.

Dr. Shuttleworth: Some of the Cranial Characteristics of Idiocy.

J. Farrar, Esq.: A Case of Ascites tapped sixty-five times.

The members will dine together at the County Hotel at 5.30 P.M.

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

96, Mosley Street, Manchester, June 10th, 1879.

### METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

A GENERAL meeting of this Branch will be held at the rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square,

on Wednesday, June 25th, at 8 P.M. precisely; when a discussion will be opened by the President, Dr. ANDREW CLARK, on "The present State of Medical Education: its faults, and suggestions for its improvement."

ALEXANDER HENRY, M.D.

June 12th, 1879.

W. CHAPMAN GRIGG, M.D.

*Hon. Secs.*

### MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held in the Board Room of the Infirmary, Derby, on Thursday, June 26th, at 2 P.M.

After the transaction of the usual business of the Branch, Dr. NEWMAN will move: "That this meeting would most cordially welcome any well considered scheme which would afford to the members of the medical profession the opportunity of assurance for their widows and orphans."

The following papers have been promised.

1. On some recent Methods in the Treatment of Wounds. By Jos. White, Esq., Nottingham.

2. Ovariectomy: and Ligation of Femoral Artery under Antiseptic Plans. By C. H. Marriott, Esq., Leicester.

3. Case of Compound Dislocation of Astragalus. By T. Sympton, Esq., Lincoln.

4. Nævi: a short paper on their Treatment, especially by Electrolysis. By W. Newman, M.D., Stamford.

5. Notes on Cases in Medical Practice. By W. Webb, M.D., Wirksworth.

6. Results of one thousand cases of Midwifery. By W. Legge, Esq., Derby.

7. On the Value of the Electro-Magnet as a means of displacing Particles of Steel lodged in the interior of the Eyeball and on the surface of the Cornea. By C. Bell Taylor, M.D., Nottingham.

8. Observations on Faradism and Galvanism considered as therapeutic agents in the treatment of various Diseases of the Eyeball and its Appendages. By C. B. Taylor, M.D.

9. On Relief of Mechanical Tension by the Knife in some Acute Affections of the Eye. By F. H. Hodges, Esq., Leicester.

10. Recent Evidence in support of the Unity of Croup and Diphtheria. By F. W. Wright, Esq., Derby.

By the kindness of the President, J. Wright Baker, Esq., luncheon will be provided at the Infirmary.

Dinner at the Midland Hotel at 5 o'clock. Tickets, 15s., including wine. Members intending to be present at the dinner are requested to send notice to F. W. Wright, Esq., Full Street, Derby.

C. HARRISON, *Hon. Sec.*

### SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Swan Hotel, Bedford, on Thursday, June 26th, at Two o'clock, under the presidency of G. P. GOLDSMITH, M.D.

The President kindly invites the members of the Branch to luncheon at his residence, 3, Harpur Place, Bedford, at one o'clock.

The following papers have been promised.

1. Clinical Remarks in Ophthalmic Surgery. By Henry Veasey, Esq., Aspley.

2. Diphtheria in Bedford, in 1877, 1878, 1879. By C. E. Prior, M.D., Bedford.

3. Notes on Recent Pneumonias. By Frank Buszard, M.D., Northampton.

4. Notes on the Distribution of Diphtheria. By Alfred Haviland, Esq., Northampton.

5. A Case of Foreign Bodies in Trachea. By G. H. Percival, M.B., Northampton.

6. Case of Hydatid of the Uterus. By A. N. Watts, Esq., Sharnbrook.

7. Case of Abscess of the Liver. By C. J. Evans, Esq., Northampton.

8. A few Remarks on Two Cases of Litholapaxy. By G. F. Kirby Smith, Esq., Northampton.

The members will dine together at the Swan Hotel, at six o'clock.

G. F. KIRBY SMITH, *Honorary Secretary.*

Northampton, June 9th, 1879.

### CAMBRIDGE AND HUNTINGDON AND EAST ANGLIAN BRANCHES.

THE combined meeting of the East Anglian and of the Cambridge and Huntingdonshire Branches will be held on Friday, June 27th, at Bury St. Edmund's, under the presidency of J. KILNER, Esq., F.R.C.S., Senior Surgeon of the Suffolk County Hospital.

Gentlemen who are desirous to read papers, or to bring any subject before the meeting, are requested to give notice to Dr. Elliston, Ipswich, on or before June 10th.

Dinner at the Angel Hotel at 7.30 P.M. Tickets, including wine, one guinea.

J. B. PITT, Norwich  
B. ANNINGSOON, M.D., Cambridge } *Hon. Secs.*  
W. A. ELLISTON, M.D., Ipswich }

#### SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at Cardiff, on July 1st next.

Gentlemen desirous of reading papers, etc., are requested to forward the titles thereof to Dr. Sheen, Cardiff, before June 10th.

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

Cardiff, May 27th, 1879.

#### BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE fifth ordinary meeting of this Branch was held on Thursday evening, April 17th, at the Bristol Museum and Library: present, Dr. HENSLEY, President, in the Chair, and forty-two members.

*New Members.*—John Guest, M.R.C.S., of the Bristol General Hospital, was elected a member of the Association and of this Branch; and F. C. Pickering, M.R.C.S.E., of Midsomer Norton, was elected a member of the Branch.

*Communications.*—The following papers were read.

1. Mr. W. M. CLARKE read a paper on the best mode of Tapping for Ascites, giving an interesting history of the operation, and strongly advocating the slow evacuation of the fluid by small tubes. The matter was thoroughly discussed by Mr. N. Crisp, Mr. Prichard, Mr. Crossman, Dr. Skerrett, Dr. Swayne, Dr. Goodridge, Mr. Cross, Dr. Davey, Dr. Shingleton Smith, Dr. E. L. Fox, Mr. Ewens, and Dr. A. E. A. Lawrence; and Mr. Clarke replied.

2. Mr. DOBSON read three cases of Ovariectomy, two being successful, and one an unsuccessful case. Dr. A. E. Aust Lawrence, Mr. Ewens, Mr. Prichard, and Dr. Elliott made some remarks; and Mr. Dobson replied. An abstract of these cases was published in the JOURNAL of May 24th.

#### NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH: SPRING MEETING.

THE spring meeting of this Branch was held at the Aquarium, Tynemouth, on Tuesday, April 29th. The President (Dr. MOORE) occupied the chair; and there were present forty-four members.

*New Members.*—The following were elected members of the Association and Branch: G. Davison, M.B., South Hetton; M. Duggan, Esq., Castle Eden; C. Gibson, Esq., Tynemouth; A. E. Legat, Esq., South Hyllton; W. Lyon, M.D., Houghton-le-Spring; D. MacNeilage, Esq., Spennymoor; H. Mason, Esq., Durham; A. T. Wear, Esq., Newcastle-on-Tyne; and A. Williamson, Esq., Witton Park, Darlington.

*Papers.*—The following papers were read.

1. Dr. PHILIPSON read a paper on Stricture of the Oesophagus, and cited two cases which had come under his care at the Newcastle-on-Tyne Infirmary. The first case was diagnosed as one of malignant disease of the oesophagus in its lower third, and the patient was treated with bromide of ammonium and nutrient enemata. He lived eight weeks after admission. Necropsy revealed scirrhus-encephaloid disease of the lower third of the oesophagus. The second case was diagnosed as one of cicatricial contraction, the result of oesophagitis, excited by the ingestion of raw whisky. The patient was treated with bromide of ammonium and nutrient enemata, and liquid food was injected into the stomach through a perforated No. ½ bougie. The patient steadily improved, and was discharged cured twelve weeks after admission, having gained in weight 2 st. 2½ lb.

2. Dr. LEGAT read a paper on the Compulsory Registration of Disease, and expressed his firm conviction that it was neither necessary, just, nor politic that medical men should be compelled to inform, and that the onus of delivering the information to the proper quarter should rest with parents, guardians, and others.—This raised an interesting discussion, in which Drs. Reid, Spear, Huntley, Stainthorpe, Gowans, Yeld, Philipson, and H. E. Armstrong took part.

*Dinner.*—The members and their friends afterwards dined together at the Aquarium—the President (Dr. Moore) in the chair; and the Honorary Secretary (Mr. T. W. Barron) in the vice-chair.

#### SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT.

THE annual meeting of this District was held in the Library of the County Hospital at Canterbury, on Thursday, May 8th; Mr. JAMES REID in the Chair. Fourteen members were present.

*Conjoint Meeting.*—An invitation from the members of the West Kent District to hold a conjoint meeting was cordially accepted.

*Ethical Questions.*—The following propositions were brought forward by Mr. REID for the consideration of the Ethical Committee.

1. "That the Ethical Committee be requested to consider and report upon the present administration of medical aid in relation to sick-clubs and the out-patient departments of hospitals and infirmaries in East Kent, with a view to recommend some method more equitable to the profession, less demoralising to the recipients, and, at the same time, ensuring a more just relation and more satisfactory results than at present appear to obtain."

2. "That, in view of the larger clinical observation and more deliberative thought required by the rapidly-increasing knowledge in practical medicine, the Ethical Committee be requested to consider and report how far it may be practicable for medical practitioners, in the larger communities of the District, where good skilled dispensing power may be ensured amongst the druggists of the place, to give up the custom of generally supplying their patients with the remedies they prescribe."

*Secretary.*—Mr. W. KNIGHT TREVES was reappointed Honorary Secretary, and thanked for his past services.

*Communications.*—Dr. WILKS reported a case of Injury by Lightning, and exhibited the clothes, watch, etc., worn by the injured man.

Mr. RIGDEN read a paper on The Management of Retained Placenta at different periods of Pregnancy.

*Dinner.*—The members afterwards dined together.

#### CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE BRANCH: MEETING.

A MEETING of the above Branch was held at the Railway Hotel, Hockerill, Bishop Stortford, on Tuesday, May 13th, at 2.30 P.M.; C. F. HODSON, Esq., President, in the chair.

The PRESIDENT read an address on the Past, Present, and Future Position of Medicine in England.

Dr. WALKER of Peterborough proposed, and Dr. GROVE of St. Ives, Hunts, seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Hodson for his address, with a request that he would print it.

*By-Laws.*—Mr. BRIDGER proposed, and Mr. D. B. BALDING seconded, a resolution, "That there be a code of by-laws for the Branch drawn up by the Council, in conformity with the laws of the Association; and that in this code reference be made to the Shropshire Ethical Branch for the settling of disputes between members".

Dr. WALKER moved, and Dr. GROVE seconded, "that Mr. Bridger and Mr. Balding be added to the Council for the purpose of the resolution".

On a show of hands, the amendment and original motion were both negatived.

*The Case of Mr. Millerchip.*—Mr. BALDING brought on the consideration of the case of Mr. Millerchip, now under sentence of four months' imprisonment for manslaughter, and moved the resolution which has already appeared in the JOURNAL, May 24th. This was seconded by Dr. PARKINSON, and carried unanimously.

*The Annual Meeting in 1880.*—A proposal to invite the Association to hold the annual meeting at Cambridge in 1880 was brought forward by Dr. ANNINGSOON, and seconded by Dr. BACON, and was adopted.

*Papers.*—The following papers were read:

T. J. WALKER, M.D.: A Note on an Operation for the Simultaneous Relief of Paraphimosis and Cure of Phimosis.

G. M. HUMPHRY, M.D., F.R.S.: Fatty Tumour in Infant: Tetanus: Recovery.—Preparations presented by members to the Pathological Museum, Cambridge, since the last meeting.

J. B. BRADBURY, M.D., F.R.C.P.: Cases of Intermittent Albuminuria, and of Intermittent Hæmaturia, with Remarks.

A long discussion followed each of the above papers.

*Officers, etc.*—Professor Humphry, Dr. J. B. Bradbury, and Mr. H. Stear were re-elected representatives of the Branch in the Council of the Association; Dr. B. Anningson was re-elected honorary secretary.

*New Members.*—Nine new members were elected.

*Visits.*—The following objects of interest were visited as time allowed. Hockerill Training Institution for Schoolmistresses; Mr. Miller's Vineries; Bishop Stortford High School; the Contagious Diseases Hospital.

*Dinner.*—The dinner took place at the Railway Hotel, at 6.15 P.M. Twenty-five members were present.

#### MIDLAND BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

A MEETING of this Branch was held at the Hospital, Louth, on May 26th, under the presidency of Dr. A. MERCER ADAM. About twenty members attended.

*New Members.*—Mr. Jalland (Horncastle) and Dr. Lanphier (Alford) were admitted members of the Association and Branch. Mr. Ennals and Mr. R. J. Swan were elected members of the Branch.

*Papers* were read by Dr. Sympton (Lincoln), Dr. Newman (Stamford), Dr. Sharpey, and Mr. Shaw (Louth).

*Dinner.*—The members afterwards dined at the King's Head Hotel.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### PROXY-VOTING AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

SIR,—Many friends and correspondents have been good enough to ask my intention relative to candidature, at this year's election, for the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons. May I, therefore, beg permission to say in your columns, as well as in private, that while, for various reasons, I do not offer myself at present, I hope to do so on a future and no distant occasion?

Allow me to embrace this opportunity of adding that I sincerely trust the right to vote by proxy, to which you have called attention, will soon be conceded to the Fellows. I am, of course, well aware that this change involves an application for a new charter, a matter of serious importance; and doubtless were it not for this fact the power to vote by proxy would have been already accorded. Still, so important is the possession of this privilege—although I am disposed to repeat myself and recognise it as “a right”—to our country brethren, and therefore to the great bulk of the profession, that the trouble of obtaining a new charter should, in my opinion, no longer be held as a bar to their claims.—I am, sir, yours, etc.,

HENRY THOMPSON.

35, Wimpole Street, W., June 9th, 1879.

SIR,—As the question of proxy-voting at the College elections has now come prominently before the Fellows, I think it would be desirable if the views of the respective candidates for seats on the Council at the next election were known upon this point.

I am, sir, yours faithfully, REGINALD HARRISON.

38, Rodney Street, Liverpool, June 9th, 1879.

SIR,—I regret that the Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of England residing in the provinces do not appear to be seeking the support of their metropolitan brethren in their attempt to introduce proxy-voting at the election of College Councillors; and with you, sir, I would strongly urge them to do so even now. Our annual gathering is at hand, and the question, if agitated now, will be discussed by *all* the Fellows, and not only by a few; not only by those who are at the head of affairs, and whom some of us believe—much as we all esteem and honour them—not always to be above taking a corporate view of what should be considered public matters.

We are living in an age of progress, in an age in which (to quote from a fluent and persuasive writer in your last issue) the waves of reformation are advancing with *quiet but decided* strides. I believe that even now there is a large proportion of metropolitan Fellows who would favour proxy-voting; and that, if the question be judiciously agitated, such proportion would rapidly develop into an overwhelming majority.

I am, sir, yours very truly,

A FELLOW AND HOSPITAL SURGEON.

Westminster Hospital, June 1879.

### THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND PROPRIETORS OF PRIVATE ASYLUMS.

SIR,—In your issue of 24th May is a letter—signed “A Proprietor, M.R.C.P.”—designed “to show that hitherto the position of proprietor of a private lunatic asylum has not been a bar to the Fellowship” of the Royal College of Physicians of London; and in proof of this statement the names of nine gentlemen are given, these being Fellows of the College and proprietors of private lunatic asylums. In this day's JOURNAL, and in the note of “F.R.C.P.,” I find a suggestion to the effect that, of the above nine gentlemen, six were elected to the said Fellowship “being physicians to public hospitals”, whilst two of them were “elected before they had any connection with private asylums, and one has since resigned that connection”. That “F.R.C.P.” is right in ignoring the conclusion of “A Proprietor, M.R.C.P.” is to my mind certain.

On one occasion, some years since, and when I was—what I am not now—the proprietor of the Northwoods private lunatic asylum, near this city—I was told, by the late Sir Charles Hood (M.D. and F.R.C.P. London), that the desire of the Council of the College of Physicians was to avoid the election to the Fellowship of members who,

like myself, were proprietors of private lunatic asylums. Sir C. Hood made no kind of secret of the fact, as stated: he told it to me very frankly and freely, and in a chatty and friendly manner.

It occurs to me that if the members of the College of Physicians had a voice, in some way and to some extent, in the selection of the names of gentlemen held by them to be eligible for the Fellowship, and from among such the Council and Fellows may enjoy the opportunity or privilege of election year by year, a point would be gained, and a closer approximation made to what may be considered a more just and popular government of the College in Pall Mall.—I am, sir, your faithful servant,

JAMES GEORGE DAVEY, M.D., M.R.C.P. London, etc.,  
4, Redland Park Villas, Bristol, May 31st, 1879.

SIR,—Your correspondent F.R.C.P. allows that seven out of the nine Fellows whose names I gave were at the time of their election proprietors of private asylums. That is enough for my purpose. It shows that private asylum proprietorship was once not incompatible with the Fellowship of the College of Physicians.

F.R.C.P. contends that six of the nine were elected as being physicians to public hospitals. He is certainly wrong with regard to four of the names; but, even if he were right, it would not affect my position, which, I say again, is that the Fellowship and private asylum proprietorship used to be not incompatible. Is it now, or has it ever been, the etiquette of the College to require a private asylum proprietor to withdraw from his proprietorship on becoming a Fellow? I think not. How many generations of Monros have been proprietors and at the same time Fellows? Dr. Conolly was a Fellow while proprietor of Lawn House, Hanwell. The late Dr. George Man Burrows gave up general practice and opened a private asylum, first at Chelsea, in 1816, afterwards at Clapham, in 1823. In 1824 he was admitted a Licentiate, in 1839 a Fellow of the College. Dr. Burrows was not a public hospital physician. His reputation was made in private asylum practice. The result of this practice was his *Commentaries*, said by Dr. Munk to be “by far the most complete and practical treatise on insanity that had then appeared in this country”. No question, so far as I have heard, has ever arisen at the College till now, upon the admission of private asylum proprietors to the Fellowship. It is an entirely novel question. My object in calling attention to it is one which “F.R.C.P.” does not seem accurately to divine. It is to show that the recent virulent and scandalous attacks upon asylum proprietors are beginning to take effect upon the medical mind. The attempt to drive a section of the medical profession outside the pale of that profession has partially succeeded. Witness the taboo now for the first time placed upon private asylum proprietors at the College of Physicians.—I am, sir, etc.,

A PROPRIETOR, M.R.C.P.

### AMYLOID DEGENERATION.

SIR,—The communications which have recently appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL from Mr. George Budd illustrate the misfortune of the term “amyloid matter” having been applied by Virchow to the deposit met with in lardaceous organs. I carefully investigated the nature of the material many years ago, and gave my results in the Gulstonian Lectures delivered at the College of Physicians in 1863. The portion of these Lectures bearing on the subject in question was afterwards published in the *Guy's Hospital Reports* for 1864, under the title “On the so-called Amyloid Degeneration”. Reference to this communication will show that there is no real analogy, either as regards composition or properties, between lardaceous matter and the carbohydrate group of principles. It was upon the strength of the behaviour with iodine alone that Virchow based his view. There is nothing else that can be brought forward to give any show of support to it; and, if we look closely into the character in question, it is seen that this fails to afford any sound foundation. In the publication referred to, I gave the following account of the iodine behaviour, and I have not since come across anything to lead me to modify the language used.

“From the observations I have conducted, it has seemed to me that the coloration of the lardaceous matter effected by iodine has depended upon a simple absorption of the reagent. My impression is that the coloration is not the result of a definite coloured product, like the product of union between iodine and starch or iodine and dextrine; but is due to iodine as such, which is absorbed more greedily, as it were, and held more firmly by the lardaceous deposit than by ordinary forms of animal matter. Unlike, in other words, the reaction of iodine with starch, dextrine, or the amyloid substance of physiology, the colour appears to depend on the iodine alone, its intensity being regulated by the amount absorbed or deposited.

“Undoubtedly, according to my experience, the colour, in arriving at black, passes through shades of red and brown, and not of blue. This I have observed, not only during the heightening of the colour,

## MEDICAL NEWS.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.**—The following members of the College having undergone the necessary examinations, were admitted Fellows of the College at a meeting of the Council on the 12th instant.

Messrs. John Morgan, L.R.C.P.Lond., Hereford Road; Henry E. Juler, L.S.A., St. Mary's Hospital; George E. Wherry, B.A. and M.B.Cantab., Cambridge; William Lang, Exeter; John B. Footner, Romsey; William B. Clarke, Lynn; William S. Andrews, Dover; William W. Cheyne, M.A. and M.B.Edin., Old Cavendish Street.

The last two named gentlemen were not members of the College.

Three candidates having failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Court of Examiners, were referred to their professional studies for twelve months.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.**—The following gentleman passed his examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, June 5th, 1879.

Hoets, Alter Kingsley, 150, Adelaide Road, N.W.

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

Cook, John William Cross, London Hospital  
Payne, John Woollard, London Hospital

### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

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

The following vacancies are announced:—

- \***BECKETT HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY**, Barnsley—House-Surgeon. Salary, £150 per annum, with apartments, gas, and attendance. Applications to the Honorary Secretary.
- \***BRISTOL GENERAL HOSPITAL**—Physician's Assistant. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications, with testimonials, on or before June 21st.
- CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM**—Assistant House-Surgeon and Registrar. Applications not later than June 20th.
- \***ESSEX LUNATIC ASYLUM**, Brentwood—Second Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with furnished apartments, board, washing, and attendance. Applications to Dr. Campbell, Medical Superintendent.
- FARINGDON UNION**—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator. Salary, £60 per annum. Applications on or before July 1st.
- \***INFIRMARY FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST AND THROAT**, Margaret Street, W.—Visiting Physician. Applications to the Secretary.
- \***HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN**, Soho Square—Assistant-Physician. Applications to the Secretary on or before July 8th.
- \***KING'S COLLEGE**—Professorship of Comparative Anatomy. For particulars apply to the Secretary.
- \***MANCHESTER ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL**—House-Surgeon and Secretary. Salary, £70 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications on or before June 16th.
- \***MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL**—Assistant-Physician and Assistant-Surgeon.
- \***MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL**—Physician and Surgeon.
- NAAS UNION**—Medical Officer for Blessington and Ballymore Dispensary District. Salary, £125 per annum, with £15 yearly as Sanitary Officer, and the usual registration and vaccination fees. Election on the 23rd instant.
- NAAS UNION**—Medical Officer for Clane and Timahoe Dispensary District. Salary, £125 per annum, £15 per annum as Sanitary Officer, exclusive of registration and vaccination fees. Election on the 17th instant.
- \***NEWPORT INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY**—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, furnished apartments, and attendance. Applications on or before June 23rd.
- \***ROYAL ISLE OF WIGHT INFIRMARY**—House-Surgeon and Secretary. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications not later than June 23rd.
- \***SALOP FORESTERS' MEDICAL AID ASSOCIATION**—Surgeon. Salary, £160 per annum.
- \***SAMARITAN FREE HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN**—Physician to the Out-Patient Department. Applications, with testimonials, to the Secretary not later than June 23rd.
- SURREY DISPENSARY**—Surgeon. Applications not later than June 24th.
- \***TRURO UNION**—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for St. Agnes District. Salary, £35 per annum, exclusive of the fees as allowed by the Local Government Board.
- \***WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL**—Medical Registrar. Salary, £40 per annum.

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

- HALL**, Charles R., L.R.C.P.Ed., appointed Junior House-Surgeon to the Metropolitan Free Hospital, *vice* C. Johnstone, L.R.C.P.Ed., resigned.
- HASSALL**, John, M.B., appointed House-Surgeon to the Stockton-on-Tees Hospital and Dispensary, *vice* Wm. Beattie Smith, L.R.C.P.Ed., resigned.
- HIFFERMAN**, J. E., L.R.C.P.E., appointed Assistant House-Surgeon to the Liverpool Dispensaries, *vice* Charles Fetherstonhaugh, M.B., resigned.
- JACKSON**, William Thomas, M.R.C.S., appointed Assistant House-Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham, *vice* Shadforth Morton, M.B., resigned.

\***JAMES**, W. Culver, M.D., appointed Physician to the Westminster General Dispensary, *vice* W. H. Lamb, M.B., resigned.

\***MASON**, S. B., L.R.C.P.E., appointed Surgeon to the Blarney Collieries.  
**REHNIE**, S. J., M.R.C.S.E., L.R.C.P.E., and L.M., has been appointed House-Surgeon to the Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary, *vice* E. Law, M.B., resigned.  
**SYMONDS**, C. J., M.D., B.S., appointed Surgical Registrar to Guy's Hospital, *vice* G. A. Wright, F.R.C.S., 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.*

#### MARRIAGE.

**NAPIER**—**HARPER**.—At Southsea, on the 11th instant, A. Napier, M.D., Crosshill, Glasgow, to Bessie, only daughter of the late T. C. Harper, Esq., surgeon, Rangoon, British Burmah.

#### DEATH.

**KING**.—On June 11th, at 48, Harley Street, Esther Marshall (Queenie), elder daughter of Robert and Esther King, aged three years and a half.

**CHESTER COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM.**—Dr. Davidson's report for 1878 shows a very satisfactory state of affairs. At the commencement of the year, 487 patients were resident in the asylum, 140 were admitted during the year, and 58 were discharged recovered. The percentage of recoveries for the year was 42.2, or 3 per cent. higher than in the previous year, the proportion for the males being 36.2 and for the females 48.3. The recovery rate is, therefore, 12 per cent. above the average of county and borough asylums. As usual, the greatest number of recoveries took place amongst those brought to the asylum in the earlier stages of the malady. The number of deaths amounted to 50, equal to a rate of 7.9 per cent. on the total number under treatment. Seventeen deaths were due to general paralysis, 8 to heart-disease, 7 to phthisis pulmonalis, 4 to chronic disorganisation of the brain, 3 to epilepsy, and 3 to senile decay. Inquests were held in four instances. With regard to the causes of the mental aberration in those admitted during the twelve months, no fewer than 29 per cent. were admittedly traceable to intemperance in drink. During the year, the asylum was entirely free from zymotic disease, and the general health was very good, notwithstanding the unfavourable bodily condition of so many of the admissions, and the excessively cold and inclement weather which prevailed during the last quarter of the year. The appended report of the Commissioners in Lunacy is entirely satisfactory.

**SMALL-POX IN GALWAY: REMUNERATION TO THE MEDICAL OFFICERS.**—On the 30th ult., a motion was brought forward at the Galway Board of Guardians to rescind the resolution recently passed voting Drs. Clayton and Colahan £75 each for the extra duty imposed on them during the recent epidemic of small-pox in that town. The Chairman, in addition, proposed an amendment, that the medical officers should not receive any remuneration, also that the matter be adjourned for six months, which was carried by a majority of votes. After voting a sum of money for extra duties performed, it appears not very creditable in the guardians if they ultimately withhold the remuneration from their medical officers to which they are justly entitled.

**GLASGOW.**—We are glad to find that Dr. Russell has at length discarded his cumbrous lithographed tabular statements for printed ones of more reasonable size, so that it is now possible to file the reports without disorganising everything else. During the fourth quarter of last year, the death-rate of Glasgow was 27.3 per 1,000; the birth-rate 35.3 per 1,000. Of the births, 8½ per cent. were illegitimate. The deaths under one year amounted to 22 per cent. and the deaths under five years to 45 per cent. of the total deaths. Only 76 per cent. of the deaths under one year were certified, and of illegitimate children of this age only 58½ per cent. of the deaths were certified. As compared with the corresponding quarter of 1877, there was an increase of 506 deaths, arising from the greater fatality of pulmonary diseases and the infectious diseases of children, amounting in the former case to 24 and in the latter to 40 per cent. of increase, the epidemic prevalence of whooping-cough accounting for the latter increase.

**KENSINGTON.**—Dr. Dudfield's annual summary shows that, during last year, 4,605 births and 3,097 deaths were registered in this large metropolitan parish. The deaths exceeded the corrected decennial average by 136, and were no less than 539 more than the number for 1877. The death-rate was 20.1 per 1,000 (0.8 above the average). Children under one year of age died to the number of 823, the excessive mortality being due to the prevalence of whooping-cough and diarrhoea. The deaths at sixty years and upwards were 657, equal to 21.2 per cent. of the total deaths. Zymotic diseases caused 548 deaths, 181 of these being from diarrhoea and 185 from whooping-cough. The graver zymotic diseases were, however, not very prevalent. Diseases of the respiratory organs were fatal to 1,042 persons, an increase of 142 on the number for the previous year, and heart-diseases caused 202 deaths. Fifty-four deaths were "not certified".



## OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

**MONDAY**.....Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 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.—St. Mark's, 2 P.M.—Cancer Hospital, Brompton, 3 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.—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.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.

**SATURDAY**....St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.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. Th. 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.

**MONDAY**.—Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, Lecture on the Influence of the Nervous System in the Production of Disease, chiefly with reference to the Skin, Eye, and Joints.

**WEDNESDAY**.—Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, Lecture on the Influence of the Nervous System in the Production of Disease, chiefly with reference to the Skin, Eye, and Joints.

**FRIDAY**.—Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, Lecture on the Influence of the Nervous System in the Production of Disease, chiefly with reference to the Skin, Eye, and Joints.

## LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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.

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

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*.

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.

**BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ACT: FALSE CERTIFICATES.**  
SIR,—Enclosed we beg to send you copy of our letter to the Registrar-General, of this date, containing a suggestion which we have respectfully submitted to him, as to the adoption of a method for tracing the utterers of false certificates.—Your obedient servants,  
GREEN and PRIDHAM, Solicitors to the Medical Defence and Medical Alliance Association.

5, Verulam Buildings, Gray's Inn, W.C., June 4th, 1879.

SIR,—From our experience in cases of prosecution under the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1874, in cases where certificates of death are given by medical men in cases not seen by them, and in cases where certificates are signed in blank, and filled up by unqualified persons, we would respectfully suggest that the following method would act effectually as a safeguard and prevention of crime, and would also assist in pointing out the offender for punishment. Let all certificates supplied to medical men be numbered in the same way as bankers' cheques, and let the numbers supplied be noted by the district registrar at the time when the certificate book is handed out.—We have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servants,  
GREEN and PRIDHAM, Solicitors to the Medical Defence and Medical Alliance Association.  
Registrar-General Births, Deaths, etc., Somerset House, W.C.

FURTHER communications of Mr. W. H. A. Jacobson, Guy's Hospital; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. Heath, Torquay; Mr. Cripps; and Mr. T. Pridgin Teale, Leeds, on obstruction and stricture of the intestine, shall be published in an early number; also further communications of Dr. Meadows, Dr. Heywood Smith, Dr. Whalley, and Mr. Firth, of the Norwich Hospital, on ovarian disease.

**MORTALITY IN LYING-IN HOSPITALS.**  
SIR,—In your remarks last week on my letter on this subject, you call attention to the fact that, in the practice of the Birmingham Charity, we have but a small proportion of primiparæ, and that we exclude single women. This statement is quite correct. To account for the small number of primiparæ, the explanation is that, on the first occasion, the necessity for seeking the aid of charity is less frequently required. We exclude single women because our Charity was founded, rightly or wrongly, for giving aid to "poor married women".

I will not stop to inquire whether it is a fact that women in their first labour are exposed to greater danger than afterwards, or whether a like increase of danger attends the confinements of unmarried women. I am quite willing you should add to your death-rate the small fraction (it will be a very small one) which you think should be allowed for these circumstances. The most extravagant allowance will not bring our mortality up to 3 in the 1,000.

You further object to the correctness of the Registrar-General's statement as to the normal death-rate, which he shows to be 5 in the 1,000. Let us take your own figures—1 death in 120, or 8.33 in the 1,000. Will you compare this with the hospital death-rate, which I have stated to be 14 to 18 in the 1,000? Will you compare it with the death-rate in Queen Charlotte's Hospital during the last five years, whatever it may have been? I have failed myself to ascertain what the exact death-rate in that hospital has been, but, with the assistance of the Registrar-General's Report on Deaths in Hospitals, I estimate that, in the year 1876, the latest year reported on, it was probably not less than 30 in the 1,000.

Will you, after making these comparisons, say, or will any of your readers say, whether it is justifiable to keep open the doors of lying-in hospitals, when, by attending the patients at their own homes, so many valuable lives may be saved?—I am sir, your obedient servant,  
J. D. GOODMAN,

Chairman of the Committee of the Birmingham Lying-in Charity.  
Birmingham, June 10th, 1879.

**TREATMENT OF NERVOUS DISEASE.**  
SIR,—I should feel much obliged if any gentleman who has come across a similar case, or if any physician engaged more particularly in the treatment of nervous disease, were to favour me with his opinion and advice as to treatment of the following case.

Mrs. J., aged 60, of temperate habits, has, for the last twenty years, suffered from nervous symptoms. At present, on undergoing slight excitement, or after doing household work, her whole body trembles, more particularly the upper extremities, and giving to anyone catching hold of her hands the idea that they are holding the handles of an electrical machine. This trembling is usually accompanied or followed by weight and pain at the forehead, together with heaviness and drooping of the eyelids. At the same time, she complains of great exhaustion, making her feel as if "there were no life in her", or "as if there were no blood in her body", to use her own phrases. She is somewhat hysterical, as shown by lowness of spirits and crying at times. There is no history of syphilis, and all the internal organs are perfectly healthy; the stomach, however, sympathises with her brain, and, when in this nervous condition, becomes intolerant of any fatty matter, at once rejecting it. The pulse is regular, and usually not much diminished in volume.

The treatment I have adopted has been the internal administration of potassium bromide with valerian, and then quinia and iron, with some measure of success.—Yours truly,  
CYMRO.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—The late Dr. Tilbury Fox was not a member of the London College of Surgeons. His father, with whom all sympathise, is a Fellow of the College.

**SUPERNUMERARY TESTICLES.**  
SIR,—In reply to "Inquirer", relative to supernumerary testicles, a reference to the *Medical Digest*, which might have spared you the query, will direct attention to several cases noted in the *Lancet*, vol. 2, 1865, pp. 448, 473, 501.

R. D. asks for suggestions in a case of severe prurigo; a saturated solution of boracic acid has, in my experience, often proved of signal service.—I am, etc.,

RICHARD NEALE, M.D. Lond.  
60, Boundary Road, St. John's Wood, N.W., June 9th, 1879.

ARISTARCH (Dublin) would only conform to the customary rules of deferential courtesy from students to their professors, under all circumstances and in all places, by "doffing his hat" wherever he meets them. From personal observation, we should entirely differ from our indignant, but hardly well-bred correspondent, in his strictures on "the haughty spirit" of the Dublin professors.

# 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.

## CONFESSIONS.

C. C. P. (Liverpool).—We have thoroughly considered that side of the question. We have no fear that the facts of practice are such that errors and mistakes should be hushed up, or buried away out of sight. The medical profession does not claim infallibility, does not seek safety by concealment from its own members or from other eyes, if they choose to inspect all the errors as well as the triumphs of medicine. Such frank confessions are among the stepping-stones of progress, and warn us all against pitfalls, which beset our feet, which it would not be manly or wise to hide out of sight.

MR. JENNINGS.—Mr. Luther Holden, the Senior Vice-President, will no doubt succeed Mr. John Simon as President of the College of Surgeons.

## THREE CASES OF ACUTE PAIN.

SIR,—In answer to the last inquiry of a "General Practitioner" in this week's JOURNAL, I would recommend the removal of the coccyx at its articulation with the sacrum, or perhaps the last segment of the bone might suffice, which in this case "ends in an abrupt and enlarged process". Prior to the operation, the bowels should be well emptied by purgatives and enemata, so as to ensure as long rest as possible for primary union. This suggestion may appear at first sight to be an unnecessarily severe measure, but, as your correspondent states that all therapeutic treatment for months has failed to relieve the intense pain, I think it would be justifiable. When I was resident surgeon at the Guest Hospital in Dudley, the late Mr. Houghton had under his care, about three years ago, a woman with injury to the coccyx from a fall; the pain was very great, and resisted all local and general treatment. Mr. Houghton removed the entire bone, and immediate relief from suffering was the result.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

ARTHUR W. ORWIN.

2, Ospringe Road, Brecknock Road, N.W., June 9th, 1879.

## "FEMALE PILLS."

SIR,—That quackery still flourishes, may be taken as an indication that some change in the law is imperatively required. It is a disgrace that such a state of matters should obtain in this country as you describe in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of Saturday, May 31st, under the heading of "The Medical Council and Obscene Quackery". It may not be generally known to what an extent the evil flourishes; but the following cases may serve at once to show that country districts are not free from this form of imposition, and that the regular practitioner may be called in, sometimes without his knowledge, to complete the work of the quack, and in circumstances in which, morally, he has no option, but must comply.

About three years ago, I was called suddenly to see a woman who, it was said, was in great pain. On reaching the house, I was told there had been much bleeding *per vaginam*, and that it was still going on. A glance at the patient convinced me of the truth of the first assertion. Examining instantly, there was found to be copious bleeding: the woman was blanched, and was passing rapidly into a state of collapse. Having no time to lose, I emptied the uterus of a foetus about four months old, the head of which had already passed the os, and the patient was left comfortable and in no immediate danger. She slowly recovered. On my last visit, not wishing to alarm her before for obvious reasons, I questioned her closely about symptoms which indicated something other than a mere miscarriage; but though the woman betrayed an uneasy consciousness, I could make nothing of it; yet I was fully convinced by objective symptoms that the opinion I had formed was correct. Thus the case rested when, eighteen months later, an urgent summons from the same woman was received, which was at once attended to. This time, however, it was not quite so unexpected, I having been told four days previously that on that day she "was to have a miscarriage". Nor was the case so urgent. I examined leisurely, and found the os almost closed, and but slight hæmorrhage. In answer to questions, she described a state of the abdominal viscera quite other than that of simple abortion, of which having satisfied myself, I said, "Now, Mrs., eighteen months ago you sent for me on a similar occasion. Thinking you would not again endanger your life, I said nothing then; but I must now ask you what you have taken, as you have told me of symptoms which are not those of a miscarriage." At first she became perfectly pale, but on recovering herself, denied having taken anything. Afterwards, she admitted having taken a pill for feminine ailments. Her neighbour, however, gave me a different story. She said that the patient had taken many pills for several nights past; that these pills were advertised for female complaints, and that she had taken them "to do her good". The threatened abortion was stopped for the time; but I learned afterwards that, about a month or six weeks later, she had similar symptoms, and this time she did not send for me; and all attempts to possess myself of the pills or their box failed.

Now, I would ask, is this a state of matters that should be tolerated in this country? Or should it be possible thus openly to be able to procure such drugs? Here is the regular physician called in to complete, and as it were carry safely through, the work of the quack, and that in circumstances in which he, the regular physician, has no choice but to do his duty, and save life by all means, if he can. Nor is this an isolated case in my experience. In this case, the pills were procured through a woman. In another instance, a woman had procured a quantity of what she called "hickory-pickory", a name which nonplussed me for some time, till I remembered that, in the course of my reading, I had found that a compound of two drugs bears the name of *hiera picra*, because used for a like purpose by the clergy of the middle ages. This she had taken mixed with gin, also "to do her good", as she termed it, and with the result of nearly destroying her own life. The foetus was got rid of all the same, and she had a tedious convalescence. Subsequent inquiry suggested by these cases opened my eyes a little, and has led me to the conclusion that the law which allowed quacks to openly advertise their nostrums, and shameless quasi-medical literature, required amendment, for I discovered that the first knowledge of such means was suggested almost invariably by some pretended medical work or flaming bill; and thus the seeds of a flagrant immorality were sown broadcast, and of course in time bore fruit.—I am, etc., S. S. S.

## OVERFLOW OF MILK.

SIR,—A lady under my charge, nursing her second child, is very much troubled with a constant flow of milk night and day, so that her clothing is scarcely ever dry, and is often saturated. The same thing occurred with her first child; otherwise she is well. I have tried various means, and should feel much obliged to any gentleman who, having met with similar cases, can help me to a successful remedy. Early replies through your pages will confer a favour upon yours very truly, M.D.

## FRACTURE OF SPINE FROM DIVING INTO SHALLOW WATER.

SIR,—A brief record of the following case may be read with interest. G. S., aged 18, a pupil at the Oundle Grammar School, whilst bathing on July 15th, 1878, took a header into between three and four feet of water. It being observed that he did not rise to the surface, the attendant (who is always present to look after the safety of the boys) dived after him and fetched him out in a state of insensibility. After a few moments, he rallied from the concussion, and was conveyed home perfectly sensible but helpless. Examination revealed complete loss of motion and sensation of the lower extremities and the trunk up to two inches above the mammary line, with great pain over the cervical vertebrae, inability to support the body in the erect position, or move the spine in any way. No displacement of the vertebrae could be detected. There was partial paralysis of the upper extremities, and sensation was more pronounced on the ulnar than on the radial aspects of the arms. There was retention of urine with priapism. Breathing was almost entirely diaphragmatic. The usual treatment for fractured spine was carried out. Skilled nurses were obtained, and every possible attention paid to the patient to promote his recovery. At first, there was considerable constitutional disturbance—pyrexia, loss of appetite, etc., periodic attacks of dyspnoea, complicating the diaphragmatic breathing, and ammoniacal urine (catheterism being continued). This condition of things was followed after a time by sloughing of tissues, which progressed steadily to the termination of the case. For five months, we had to compete with severe bed-sores, wholesale sloughing of tissues, disintegration of the knee-joints, the attachments of which became quite disorganised, and other signs of low vitality. The patient succumbed to his injury on December 24th, or twenty-three weeks after the accident.

At the *post mortem* examination, the fifth cervical vertebra was found to be fractured vertically through the body. The fracture had apparently partly united towards the posterior part of the spinal canal. The spinal cord at this point was reduced to a mere slender thread, only a few fibres remaining by which either sensation or motion could be conveyed.

The points of interest in the case are: 1. The position of the fracture—vertically through the body; 2. The length of time the patient lived, taking into consideration the seat of fracture, and the severity of the injury to the spinal cord; 3. The large amount of good support that was taken had much to do with delaying the fatal termination.—I am, etc., M.R.C.S.

## ARSENIC IN THE NURSERY.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Daily Telegraph*, an analytical chemist, writes to draw attention to an exceedingly dangerous use of arsenic. In a box of Kindergarten toys were some cardboard slips for making letters. One side of these slips was covered with bright green paper, which our correspondent analysed, and found that the green pigment consists of emerald or Scheele's green, which is well known to be a compound of arsenic and copper. The colour is, moreover, readily removed by moistening with saliva, which is of the more importance, as young children are in the habit of putting such things in their mouths.

ERRATUM.—Page 878, column 2, third line of letter signed "Rondeletia", for "mine", read "swine".

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

Dr. Radford, Manchester; Dr. Churton, Leeds; Dr. F. N. Otis, New York; Dr. J. Neild, Melbourne, Victoria; Dr. J. H. Thomas, Wellingborough; Mr. A. B. Manby, Swaffham; Mr. J. Hogg, London; Mr. W. H. A. Jacobson, London; Mr. J. Graham, Sunderland; Dr. A. Collie, London; Dr. Andrews, Chicago, U.S.; Sir H. Thompson, London; Dr. McKendrick, Glasgow; Dr. Humphry, Cambridge; Dr. Ogston, Aberdeen; Dr. Anningson, Cambridge; Mr. Rivington, London; Mr. Teevan, London; Dr. A. S. Taylor, London; Hon. J. Bourke, Dublin; Medical Etiquette; Dr. Marcet, Cannes; Mr. F. W. Lowndes, Liverpool; Mr. F. Toulmin, Clapton; Dr. B. Foster, Birmingham; Mr. H. K. King, Moruya, New South Wales; Dr. Smart, Folkestone; Dr. Dawson, Great Yarmouth; Dr. D. Foulis, Glasgow; Dr. Walter, Manchester; Mrs. C. Hall, Torquay; Mr. J. Lewis, Birmingham; Dr. J. McIntyre, Odham; Solus; Mr. J. Woodman, Exeter; Mr. T. P. Teale, Leeds; Mr. French, London; Dr. R. H. Semple, London; Dr. J. Stevenson, London; Dr. T. O. Dudfield, London; The Master of Pembroke College, Oxford; Mr. W. J. Tivy, Clifton; Mr. R. Harrison, Liverpool; Mr. R. Williams, Liverpool; Mr. J. S. Carleton, Newnham; Dr. J. B. Wardell, Tunbridge Wells; Dr. P. Purvis, Blackheath; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. J. Althaus, London; Mr. A. W. Orwin, London; Mr. W. C. Dunbar, London; Dr. R. Neale, London; One who Knows; Mr. Treves, Margate; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Dr. Warner, London; Mr. J. W. Richardson, London; Dr. Tosswill, Exeter; Mr. Trend, Southampton; Surgeon-Major Boileau, Netley; Mr. J. B. James, London; Dr. D. Christie, Carrigart; Dr. Sheen, Cardiff; A. S.; Dr. Farquharson, London; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Mr. W. C. James, London; Dr. Kinkead, Galway; Mr. W. H. Maclean, Portsoy; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham; Mr. Robinson, Ashton-under-Lyne; Dr. Broadbent, London; Mr. E. Robinson, Dukinfield; Mr. H. W. Thomas, Birmingham; Messrs. Green and Pridham, London; Dr. Sandford, Market Drayton; Dr. Moore, Belfast; Dr. Gross, Philadelphia; Sir Mathew White Ridley, London; Mr. J. H. Buckstone, London; Diogenes; O. T.; Mr. L. C. Sarkies; Dr. R. J. Lee, London; Dr. Grimshaw, Dublin; Dr. Macnaughton Jones, Cork; Dr. Cosmo Logie, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. E. Copeman, Norwich; L.R.C.S.I.; Mr. C. Puzey, Liverpool; Mr. T. S. Hutchinson, Newington; etc.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Manual of Scientific Terms. By the Rev. J. Stormouth. Edinburgh: MacLachlan and Stewart. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. 1879.  
Children's Lives, and How to Protect them. By W. Thomas, M.D. London: Sampson Low and Co. 1879.  
Pott's Disease: its Pathology and Mechanical Treatment; with Remarks on Rotary Lateral Curvature. By Newton M. Shaffer, M.D. New York: C. P. Putnam's Sons. 1879.