

Association Intelligence.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
METROPOL. COUNTIES. [Adjourned General.]	37, Soho Square.	Tuesday, Dec. 9th, 4 P.M.
MIDLAND. [Quarterly.]	Board Room of the County Hospital, Lincoln.	Friday, Dec. 12, 7 P.M.

NOTICE REGARDING NEW MEMBERS.

By desire of the Committee of Council, the General Secretary requests that the Local Secretaries will be good enough to forward to him the names of all New Members who join the Association through the Branches; as otherwise the JOURNAL cannot be sent to them.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *General Secretary.*

Worcester, November 10th, 1862.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

MEETINGS for the reading and discussion of papers on scientific subjects will be held as follows:—

On Thursday, the 18th December next, at Chester.

On Thursday, the 12th March next, at Manchester.

Gentlemen desirous of communicating papers or cases to either of the above meetings are requested to send notice to the Honorary Secretary.

A. T. H. WATERS, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

Liverpool, November, 1862.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

A SPECIAL General Meeting of this Branch, summoned by order of the Council, was held at the office of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, 37, Soho Square, on Tuesday, December 2nd, 1862; ROBERT DUNN, Esq., President, in the Chair. There were also present twenty-one members.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The late Sir Benjamin Brodie. Dr. MARKHAM proposed, and Dr. G. WEBSTER seconded, the following resolution, which was unanimously carried.

"That the members of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association take this opportunity of recording the expression of their deep regret at the great loss sustained by the profession, by science, and by the entire community, through the death of Sir Benjamin Brodie, a member of the Association."

The Therapeutical Inquiry. Dr. STEWART proposed—

"That the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee to aid in carrying out the therapeutical inquiry instituted by the British Medical Association:—Campbell De Morgan, Esq., F.R.S.; Dr. H. Gueneau De Mussy; Dr. Garrod, F.R.S.; Dr. Harley; Dr. Handfield Jones, F.R.S.; Thomas Hunt, Esq.; Henry Lee, Esq.; Dr. Markham; Dr. Routh; Dr. Edward Smith, F.R.S.; Dr. Stewart; and Dr. Hermann Weber: with power to add to their number."

Dr. RICHARDSON seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, after a discussion in which Dr. Webster, Dr. Wynn Williams, Dr. Routh, and Dr. Markham took part.

Gratuitous Medical Services. Dr. GIBBON proposed the following resolutions.

"That, in the opinion of this Branch of the British Medical Association, the system of gratuitous medical

services, as given in most of our hospitals and dispensaries, is detrimental to the welfare of the profession, and unnecessary, if not prejudicial, to the promotion of science and humanity.

"That it be referred to the Council to consider what steps can be taken by the Association to suppress this ever-increasing evil."

Dr. JOSEPH SEATON and Mr. LORD seconded the resolutions; and, after a discussion in which Dr. Wynn Williams, Dr. Richardson, and Dr. Markham, took part, the further consideration of the subject was adjourned to Tuesday next.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE Ordinary Meeting was held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday evening, November 27th; W. J. CHURCH, Esq., President, in the Chair. There were also present forty-eight members and two visitors.

Papers. The following papers were read:

1. Case of Retroflexion of the Uterus. By W. M. Clarke, Esq.
2. Peculiar Case of Injury to the Subclavian Artery. By John Soden, Esq. Mr. Soden introduced the patient.
3. Case of Wound of the Vertebral Artery by Stabbing. By A. Prichard, Esq. (Read, in the absence of Mr. Prichard, by C. Leonard, Esq.)
4. A Case of Monstrous Birth. By Jas. Hinton, Esq.
5. Dr. Brittan made some observations on a case now under his care, where the diagnosis is very obscure.

Reports of Societies.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MONDAY, NOV. 3RD, 1862.

B. G. BABINGTON, M.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

This being the first meeting for the session, Dr. Babington delivered an address, in which he gave a highly interesting account of the life and labours of the late Honorary Secretary to the Society, Dr. McWilliam, C.B., F.R.S.

ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL COURSE OF PESTILENTIAL DISEASE.

BY G. MILROY, M.D.

After adverting to the great want of reliable and comprehensive data on this subject—the recent Geography of Epidemic Diseases Abroad—a want which could be more easily and satisfactorily supplied by Great Britain than by any other nation, through the medium of its consular agents in every foreign land, and of its numerous colonies scattered over the face of the globe, and to the consequent necessity of trusting merely to those imperfect scraps of information which from time to time find their way into the medical and other public journals, Dr. MILROY briefly traced the course of Cholera in the East during the last twelve months.

The disease has continued to rage in many parts of India, especially in the North-West Provinces. Peshawar, Kobat, and various other places, suffered severely during the summer. About the same time, Caubul, Candahar, and other districts to the west of the Indus, were infected; and the scourge was also present in Busorah, at the head of the Persian Gulf, and in the pachalic of Bagdad along the course of the Tigris. Towards the end of 1861, it broke out at Bombay, and since then it has appeared in many parts of that presidency, more especially in the malarious province of Gujerat. Several places also in the Deccan, intermediate between Bombay and Madras, suffered. In Cochin

Medical News.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. Second M.B. Examination, 1862. Pass Examination.

First Division.

Bayldon, John, B.Sc. Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh
 Griffiths, Thomas, University College
 Hewlett, Richard Whitfield, King's College
 Huxley, James Usher, King's College
 Jeaffreson, Horace, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Morton, Thomas, King's College
 Parson, Edward, King's College
 Powell, William, London Hospital
 Shepherd, James, University College
 Smith, Thomas Starkey, University College
 Squire, Alexander J. Balmanno, University College

Second Division.

Dale, Wm., Leeds School of Medicine and Middlesex Hospital
 Dawson, Richard, University College
 March, Henry Colley, St. Thomas's Hospital
 Marsdin, Frederick, King's College
 Stockwell, Frederick, St. George's and Bath United Hospitals
 Tibbitts, Edward Thomas, University College

Examination for Honours.

Physiology and Comparative Anatomy.

Huxley, James U. (Scholarship and Gold Medal), King's College
 Squire, A. J. B. (Gold Medal), University College
 Morton, Thomas, King's College

Surgery.

Smith, Thos. S. (Scholarship and Gold Medal), University College
 Hewlett, Richard Whitfield (Gold Medal), King's College
 Griffiths, Thomas, University College
 Huxley, James U., King's College
 Morton, Thomas, King's College
 Powell, William, London Hospital

Medicine.

Smith, Thos. S. (Scholarship and Gold Medal), University College
 Huxley, James U. (Gold Medal), King's College
 Griffiths, Thomas, University College
 Squire, Alexander J. B., University College
 Parson, Edward, King's College

Midwifery.

Parson, Edward (Gold Medal), King's College
 Huxley, James U., King's College
 Smith, Thomas S., University College
 Squire Alexander J. B., University College
 Griffiths, Thomas, University College
 Morton, Thomas, King's College

M.D. Examination. Pass List.

Fagge, Charles Hilton, Guy's Hospital
 Galton, John Henry, Guy's Hospital
 Mackenzie, Morell, London Hospital
 Ramsbotham, Walter Bassett, University College
 Rutter, Joseph, University College
 Walcott, Robert Bowie, St. Thomas's Hospital

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE. First M.B. Examination.

Steward, G. W., M.A. Welch, T. D., M.A.

Second M.B. Examination.

Sturges, Octavius, B.A.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On November 27th, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Aspray, Charles Owen, Newton Road, Bayswater
 Bastian, Henry Charlton, Burton Crescent
 Biddle, Daniel, Wotton-under-Edge
 Cæsar, Richard Thompson, Hadlow, Tunbridge
 Cornish, Philip A., Modbury, Devon
 Curtis, Collins, Great Northern Hospital
 Stewart, Charles John, Montague Place, Kentish Town

At the same Court, the following passed the first examination:—

Power, William Henry, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

APPOINTMENTS.

JAMES, William W., Esq., appointed Surgeon to the Devon County Prison, at Exeter, in the room of the late C. K. Webb, Esq.
 O'KELLY, Martin T., M.D., appointed Physician to the Clongroes College, Kildare, in the room of the late C. Clarke, A.B., M.B.
 PARSONS, Charles, Esq., elected House-Surgeon and Apothecary to the Salisbury Infirmary, in the room of F. P. Darke, Esq.
 SHIELL, Thomas W., M.B., appointed one of the Staff of the Maryborough Lunatic Asylum, Queen's County.
 WHITE, George, M.D., appointed House-Surgeon to Gray's Hospital, Elgin.

ARMY.

FITZPATRICK, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon J. A., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st Foot, *vice* W. Chalmers.
 LEVER, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon R. C., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 7th Hussars, *vice* G. M. Slaughter.
 MARLOW, Surgeon B. W., M.D., 28th Foot, having completed 20 years full-pay service, to be Surgeon-Major.
 MORPHEW, Staff-Surgeon A., to be Surgeon 1st West India Regiment, *vice* E. A. Brien.
 WHITE, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon C. J., to be Assistant-Surgeon 12th Lancers, *vice* E. M. Wrench.

To be Staff-Assistant-Surgeons:—

CHALMERS, Assistant-Surgeon W., 1st Foot.
 SLAGHTER, Assistant-Surgeon G. M., 7th Hussars.

YEOMANRY CAVALRY.

LOGAN, J., M.D., to be Honorary Surgeon Royal Kettering Troop.

VOLUNTEERS. (A.V.—Artillery Volunteers; R.V.—Rifle Volunteers):—

BARNES, J. W., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 2nd Middlesex A.V.
 MALLETT, F. B., M.B., to be Assistant-Surg. 27th Lancashire R.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon:—

ENPSON, C. F., Esq., 38th West Riding of Yorkshire R.V.

NEW MAYORS. The following members of the medical profession have been elected Mayors for the ensuing year:—

CONGDON, W. G., Esq.	Marazion.
COUCHMAN, R., Esq.	Bedford.
HOLDSWORTH, S., M.D.	Wakefield.
TRURAN, Thomas, Esq.	Truro.

DEATHS.

BATTY, Robert, Esq., Surgeon, at Kingston, Jamaica, aged 34, on November 8.
 BRIEN, Edward A., Esq., Surgeon 1st West India Regiment, lately.
 CLARKE, John, M.D., Assistant-Surgeon 13th Foot, lately.
 CROZIER, William, Esq., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Calcutta Medical College, on board the *Simla*, in his passage to England, on November 12th.
 HOOPER. On November 29, at Hoddesdon, Herts, aged 68, Frances, wife of *John Hooper, M.D.
 LITCHFIELD, W. Vincent, Esq., Surgeon, at Isleworth, aged 35, on November 28.
 PAGE, William, Esq., Staff-Assistant-Surgeon, lately.
 THOMPSON. On December 1st, at Westerham, aged 62, Harriet, wife of *Charles M. Thompson, Esq.
 WILKINS, William M., Esq., Surgeon 41st Foot, half-pay, lately.
 WOAKES. On November 23rd, at Luton, aged 50, Anna Maria, wife of Edward Woakes, Esq., Surgeon.

FORT PITT HOSPITAL, it is decided by authority, goes to Netley next February. The Army Medical School, of course, goes thither to.

BROMPTON HOSPITAL. In the interests of the in-patients, and on the strong recommendation of the medical committee, the committee have recommended the appointment of an honorary dental surgeon to the hospital.

THE PUCKETT FUND. Mr. Griffin has received Five Guineas from Dr. Sprott Boyd, of Sydney. Dr. Boyd was formerly a resident at Weymouth. The fund now amounts to £1050:15:6.—Mr. Griffin has also received Ten Shillings from Dr. W. Woodward, of Worcester, towards the Poor-Law Medical Reform Association.

WELL-PAID MEDICAL SERVICES. Mrs. Mead, widow of the late Mr. C. C. Mead, Assistant-Surgeon to the European Hospital, Bombay, has been presented by the Hon. Rustonjee Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy with a sum of 15,000 rupees, in acknowledgment of the medical services, extending over several years, rendered by her late husband to the Jamsetjee family.

VACANCIES. The following appointments are vacant:—Physician to the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary; district surgeon of Greenock; medical officer to the Rathmullan Dispensary, county Donegal; physician's assistant and junior house-surgeon at the Manchester Royal Infirmary and Dispensary; and medical officer for the Belturbet Dispensary, district of the Cavan Union.

THE DISTRESS IN LANCASHIRE. Dr. S. D. Lees, Mayor of the Manor at Ashton-under-Lyne, has issued a circular calling upon his professional brethren and the public to assist the General Relief Committee in relieving the distress in his district. "A large distribution of clothing is now being made, yet thousands of garments are still required to meet the pressing wants of the starving operatives. Cast-off garments of useful quality, contributions of money by post-office orders, cheques, postage-stamps, or any other assistance, will be thankfully received." Parcels may be directed to Dr. Lees, Chairman, General Relief Committee, Ashton-under-Lyne.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT. Staff Assistant-Surgeon William Thomas Paliologus was lately precipitated down one of the trenches at Fort Pitt, Chatham, a depth of about thirty feet, from missing the path owing to the extreme darkness, and there being no fence or other protection. He was discovered about three hours afterwards, with one of his legs broken and otherwise seriously injured. He was immediately removed to the hospital, and attended to by the medical staff. As frequent similar accidents have lately occurred, it has been suggested that the authorities should erect a fence or some other barrier, and thus prevent the recurrence of what might have been a fatal catastrophe.

PRESENTATION OF AN ADDRESS TO DR. MACFARLANE. On Saturday, a number or members of the medical profession of Glasgow and the West of Scotland met in the Faculty Hall, Glasgow, for the purpose of presenting an address to Dr. John Macfarlane, late Professor of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, on the occasion of his retiring from public life. The address was signed by one hundred and ninety members of the Faculty, and was contained in a chaste gold plated box, bearing the following inscription:—"On his retirement from public life, the enclosed address, expressive of their esteem and affection, is presented by a numerous body of medical practitioners of Glasgow and the West of Scotland, to Dr. John Macfarlane, late Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow." The address was presented by Dr. Lyon, the chairman, and replied to in feeling terms by the respected professor.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH: NUMBER OF STUDENTS. The number of students matriculated at this date (22nd November) is 1400. They are distributed as follows among the different Faculties—Arts, 600; Medicine, 470; Law, 259; Divinity, 71. Last year, at the corresponding date, the total number of matriculated students was 1292; but as the Divinity students were not enrolled in the general album of the University, an addition of 71 must be added to the numbers of 1861, in order that a comparison may be instituted between the two years. The numbers for last year would then stand as follow:—Total number, 1363; Arts, 604; Medicine, 491; Law, 194; Divinity, 71. It will thus be seen that there is a falling off in the number of medical students to the amount of 24. We understand, however, that the number of first year's students is considerably larger than last year.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY. On Monday last, in consequence of St. Andrew's Day falling on a Sunday, the anniversary meeting of the members of this society was held in their rooms, at Burlington House, Piccadilly. There was a large attendance of members. The President for the year, Major-General Edward Sabine, R.A., D.C.L., delivered an address, in which he adverted in feeling and appropriate terms, to the loss the society had sustained in the death of Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie, Bart., one of the most distinguished surgeons of modern times, who last year resigned the presidential chair. He also directed attention to the various branches of science in which progress had been made during the past year,

and to the recent Australian explorations. The Copley medal was awarded to Mr. Thomas Graham, M.A., D.C.L., the Master of the Mint, for his Researches in the Diffusion of Liquids. The Rumford medal was awarded to Professor G. R. Kirchhoff for his labours in Spectrum Analysis. One of the royal medals was awarded to Dr. Romney Robinson, the Astronomer Royal of Ireland, for his Catalogue of 5345 Stars, which cost him the labour of twenty-eight years, and other works connected with astronomy; and the other to Professor A. W. Williamson, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry in University College, and Examiner in Chemistry in the University of London, for his Researches in Organic Chemistry. Officers for the ensuing year were elected, and the fellows of the society dined together in the evening.

GROWTH OF POPULATION. In the first three quarters of the present year the excess of births over deaths in Great Britain has been 248,537, a natural increase greater by 16,063 than in the first nine months of 1861. Although marriages have decreased in England this year, the marriage-rate has been maintained in Scotland, apparently indicating that the general prosperity of that part of the kingdom has not been so seriously affected by the war in America. The marriage-rate in Scotland, however, is always greatly below that of England—a remarkable difference between countries so closely allied; nevertheless, the proportion of legitimate births to the population is as high in Scotland as in England, Scottish marriages being more fruitful than English. There has been an unusual proportion of male births in Scotland this year, rising in the third quarter to 107 boys to every 100 girls; in several country parishes the proportion has been 3 to 2, and even 2 to 1. Scotland has also differed this year, from England in another respect; the mortality, low in England, has in Scotland been high throughout the year owing to the unfavourable effect of the damp, cold, rainy weather in that northern clime.

LEPROSY IN THE EAST INDIES, ETC. The inquiry which has been recently instituted by the directions of the Duke of Newcastle into the prevalence of this sad and loathsome disease in our colonies in different regions of the globe is about to be extended, at the suggestion of his Grace, to the several presidencies of India, where the malady is known to exist in various districts to a considerable degree among the lower orders of the native population. Most of the countries in the East continue to be infested with it to a greater or less extent, generally speaking in proportion to the physical and moral degradation of their people. In China it is very common; there are numerous leper-houses in most of the large towns. In the Philippine Islands, in Borneo, Java, and indeed in almost all the islands of the Indian ocean, including Madagascar, Mauritius, and the Isle of Bourbon, the disease is frequent among the coloured and black races; and the same remark holds true of most of the islands on the west coast of Africa—among the cape de Verd, Canary, and Maderia groups; also of the Azores, and even of Iceland and of the shores of Greenland. The geographical extent of the disease is, perhaps, greater than that of any other like disease. As it is understood that Lord Russell has intimated his willingness that the interrogatories on the subject, prepared by the College of Physicians at the request of the Colonial Secretary, should be transmitted to all Her Majesty's Consuls abroad with the view of eliciting information from foreign countries as well as from all British possessions in different regions of the globe, there is good reason to expect that the inquiry will prove highly interesting and instructive, and may lead to many salutary suggestions bearing on the hygienic and social condition of the peoples among whom the disease prevails. |

Varieties.

THE SOLDIER'S GREATEST PERIL. The experience of this war confirms that of nearly all campaigns, that soldiers are in far greater danger from the diseases incident to camp life than from the weapons of the enemy. There are many surprising facts illustrating this in the history of the English and French armies. The 92nd English Regiment lost more officers and men in four months from the climate of Jamaica than by the enemy in an active war of twenty-two years, in which it was twenty-six times in battle. The French sent 309,268 officers and men to the Crimean war, of whom 200,000 were under medical treatment, 50,000 being for wounds and 150,000 for diseases. Among these soldiers there were 69,229 deaths, of whom only 7,500 were killed on battle-field or not afterwards heard of, being eight deaths from other causes to one in battle. It is the deliberate opinion of Scrive, an intelligent investigator, that the losses occasioned by the most murderous battles do not equal one-fourth of the total losses to which an army is ordinarily subjected. (*Boston (U.S.) Paper*).

THE VICHY WATERS. The following is from the pen of Dr. Lee of Philadelphia:—"There are, in all France, one hundred and sixty-five mineral springs of greater or less celebrity; the most important of which, already stated, belong to and are controlled by the Government. Vichy may undoubtedly be placed at the head of these, if we consider the reputation it enjoys, and the number of invalids who annually resort thither to make trial of its waters. The Emperor may be said to have taken it under his especial patronage, as the Empress has that of *Eaux-Bonnes*, for he occasionally takes up his residence at Vichy in July, and protracts his stay till late in August, or rather, till the great national fête of the 16th of the month. It is well known that he has been somewhat of an invalid for several years past, and it is generally believed that he finds the use of the waters extremely beneficial. Some idea may be formed of the popularity of the waters, when I state, that up to the 15th of September, 1861, 16,440 strangers had visited the place, and up to the 20th of August of the present year, 15,483 patients had registered their names, besides 1324 servants who accompanied them. These, as the register shows, came from every country in Europe, and a considerable number from North and South America, and the West Indies. There can be no doubt that some fashionables are attracted hither by the presence of the Emperor, but the vast majority to try the medicinal effects of the waters. There is nothing attractive in the appearance or situation of Vichy; it is a hot, dusty place, far more so than our Saratoga, while its surroundings are far less agreeable. It consists of the old and new town; the streets of the former narrow and irregular, while the houses are mean and ugly, but the new portion is better laid out, though still without much order or regularity, the houses being built of the same light-coloured sandstone which is universally used all over France. It lies on the left bank of the Allier, a moderate sized river, in summer occupying a tenth part of its ordinary channel; nine hours by express train from Paris on the Orleans line of railway. It has numerous grand hotels; everything is grand in France; even the principal spring here goes under the name of *Grande-Grille*! The price of board, including rooms and the use of the salon, is from one to three dollars or more per day, according to extent of accommodations. A patient, however, as at our own watering places, can adapt his expenses to his means. All the hotels have a *table d'hôte*, but the patient can resort to a restaurant, and thus live at less than half the expense. There are some establishments chiefly patronised by the fashionable, who resort hither for gambling or amusement, such as the hotels Guiller-

min, de Paris, Germont, etc. Lodgings generally have to be secured in advance; one-half the residents seem to be in the confectionary line, for their shops are filled with pastilles and sugar plums, made of Vichy salts, sugar, and flour, or gum and *sucre d'orge*, a "digestif alcalin," very much in vogue. The springs, nine in number, were first taken possession of by Napoleon I. in 1810, who opened a park, and authorised the acquisition of the necessary land. The large establishment was erected in 1820, but it was not till 1845 that the government took entire control of the waters. The second thermal building was erected in 1858. These are large and commodious, and display considerable architectural taste. There are three hundred and six bath rooms, and thirty-nine separate rooms for *douche* baths, which seem to be greatly in vogue. In 1863 the government sold 100,520 bath tickets, and sent out 361,000 bottles of the water. In 1857, 170,405 tickets were given out, including 27,000 gratuitous, and 700,000 bottles of water sold; in 1861, 280,000 bath tickets sold, and 1,250,000 bottles of water sent out and sold, and all this in addition to the immense quantity of the dry salts, extracted from the waters, and the *pastilles*, made for the government from the same salts, and distributed over the kingdom. Thus it will appear that these mineral waters are a source of no small revenue to the government, and are annually becoming more and more profitable. (*American Medical Times*).

ALCOHOL IN HOSPITALS. There are among the governors of the Bridgewater Infirmary some teetotallers who go beyond the question whether alcohol is food or medicine, and would proscribe it altogether as a poison. They are horrified by the cost of alcohol administered to the patients. They seem to see doctors, patients, matron, and apothecary involved in a dance of death to the tune of "Drops of Brandy," and are nowise mollified by the fact that the average duration of patients in the house for cure was twenty-six days against an average of thirty-three. At the annual meeting where these opinions were expressed some interesting details were given by Mr. Haviland, one of the surgeons, relating to the consumption of alcohol in hospitals. It appears that the average amount of expenditure in fermented liquors in the following metropolitan, borough, and county hospitals stands thus:—King's College, 9s. 14d.; St. George's, 6s. 6½d.; Middlesex, 8s. 6d.; Charing Cross, 8s.; London 7s. 7½d.; Westminster, 6s. 11½d.; Dorset County, 8s. 3d.; Exeter, 6s. 10d.; Cambridge, 5s. 3d.:—making an average of 7s. 5½d. per case. The average in Bridgewater Infirmary amounts only to 6s. 6½d. The low average of St. George's compared with King's College is remarkable; it is noteworthy that the institution in which Dr. Todd's influence was strongest stands highest on the list. There is one institution at which the expenditure stands at what must be considered a peculiarly low point; Truro Infirmary expends only 1s. 3½d. on each case for alcoholic liquors. Dr. Barham, physician to this charity, can only suggest, in explanation, that the class of patients admitted are drawn from rural, sea-side, and upland districts in rather large proportion, and are in few instances derived from unhealthy town districts. But the school of treatment by the physicians, and the number and severity of accidents involving exhausting loss of blood in the surgical wards, are considerations probably more to the point. The alcoholic standard of these various hospitals might serve as a starting-point for several medical inquiries of considerable interest in the present diversity of opinion and practice.

ACCLIMATISATION OF SPONGES. M. Lamiral, whose departure for the coast of Syria with a view to obtain sponges for transplantation we mentioned in April last, has now returned, and presented a detailed report of his proceedings to the Société d'Acclimatation. M. Lamiral distinguishes three kinds of sponges for which there is a demand—the fine and soft sponge, called *abiand*; the

fine and hard sort, called *achmar*; and lastly the common sort, called *cabar* by the Arabs. These sponges are found in the Levant within the thirty-sixth and thirty-third degrees of latitude—that is, between Alexandretta and Saida. When the sponge is first gathered at the bottom of the sea, it is covered with a black but transparent gelatinous substance, resembling vegetable granulations, among which microscopic white and oviform bodies may be distinguished. These are the larvæ destined to perpetuate the species. When arrived at maturity, they are washed out by the sea-water which incessantly flows through the sponge; they then swim along, by the aid of the vibrating cilia or hairs with which they are provided, until they reach a suitable rock, to which they attach themselves, and there commence a new life. This emigration of the larvæ from the parent sponge occurs about the end of June and beginning of July. The fine qualities of sponges are chiefly found at a depth of fifteen fathoms or thereabout; the common sponge lies at depths varying between twenty and thirty fathoms. At Tripoli (on the coast of Syria, not of Africa) M. Lamiral engaged some divers, who commenced operations on the 21st of May. The sponges gathered were immediately placed in boxes, through which a stream of sea-water was constantly made to flow, the animal matter being, of course, left on them, and protected from injury. These sponges arrived at Marseilles on the 17th of June; thence they were taken to Toulon and the islands of Hyères, where stone troughs, with five sponges in each, were sunk in different places. The success of the experiment will not, of course, be known until next season.

THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN IN THE BOIS DE BOULOGNE. It is generally believed by foreigners that this is exclusively appropriated to the acclimatisation of animals, but this is a mistake. It is likewise devoted to the cultivation of plants. Among the alimentary plants successfully cultivated during the present year are to be seen several varieties of the potato from Australia, Bolivia, the Cordilleras, and Peru. Some of the roots weigh as much as six pounds. None of these plants have been attacked by disease. Another remarkable vegetable is the bean-tree (*dolichos lignosus*) from China, and a new species of spinach (*chenopodium quinoa*), with numerous leaves, which afford a nutritious food for milch cows. The seed, when ground, is well calculated for cake, bread, or soup. It is likewise excellent food for poultry. There is also the Malabar spinach (*basella intermedia*) and the New Zealand spinach, which grows the faster as the weather is hotter, and is the more valuable as it arrives at perfection at a season when spinach is most scarce. There is the *cucurbita pepo*, the young fruit of which is excellent in various sauces. There are likewise to be seen various timber trees, such as the *quercus castaneifolia*—the oak with chestnut leaves, on which silk-worms feed; the *loga rhamnus tinctorius*, from which a valuable green dye is produced; and the *rhus vernicifera*, which produces pure Japan varnish. These are a few of the five-hundred species of trees successfully cultivated. There are likewise flourishing a great variety of medicinal, industrial, and ornamental shrubs. The directors are very liberal in supplying horticulturists with seeds of these various plants.

FRENCH MINERAL WATERS. "There is no country in the world," writes Dr. Lee of Philadelphia, "where mineral waters are held in higher estimation than in France. This is shown by the fact, that the preservation and management of all the important mineral springs are under the direct control of the government, and form a distinct bureau under the minister of agriculture, commerce, and public works. They are now under the immediate charge of M. Nanta, Chief of the Division of Mines and Manufactories. He is aided by a *Consulting Hygienic Committee* consisting of nine members, of which M. Rayer, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Physician in ordin-

ary to the Emperor, is president. Thirteen other physicians of eminence are designated by government to aid in the deliberations and consultations relating to mineral waters; and their names are annually published in connection with the other officers of State. Besides this, the *Imperial Academy of Medicine* has a permanent standing committee on mineral waters, consisting of six of its most distinguished members, besides a leading chemist. Besides these, there is an *Army Council of Health* under the minister of war, who have a voice also in regard to the use of mineral waters; of this, M. Vaillant is President and Medical Inspector. The Government, moreover, to show its faith by its works, has established nine Thermal Military Hospitals, viz., at Vichy; Bourbonne-les-Bains; Baresges; Amelie-les-Bains; Bourbon-l'Archambault; Plombières; Guano (Corsica); Hamman-Mezkhoutine (Algiers), and Bains de la Reine (Algiers). To these hospitals, both officers and soldiers, labouring under certain kinds of chronic disease, are sent by the Government until cured, or death has relieved them of their sufferings. Resident medical inspectors and adjunct inspectors are appointed also to all the important mineral springs of France. Besides, there are physicians resident at Paris, whose chief office is to prescribe what mineral waters are best suited to individual cases; these now number forty-seven, besides ten chemists specially devoted to the analysis of these waters. These statements are, perhaps, sufficient to show in what estimation mineral springs are held in France. I may add, however, that in 1861, a prize was offered of one thousand francs for the best work on mineral waters; and the French Academy of Medicine, at a special sitting, awarded it to Dr. Durand-Fardel, whose work is now a leading authority on the subject; nine silver or bronze medals were also awarded to other writers, and honourable mention made of four more. An Annual of mineral waters and marine baths is also published at the commencement of every year, and has a large circulation."

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE SUN. By what agency is the light and heat of the sun maintained? What is it that feeds that vast furnace to which we owe vegetation, and in a great measure our very existence? An agency affording it the necessary aliment there must be, otherwise it would soon be exhausted. This question has long engaged the attention both of astronomers and natural philosophers, and various theories have been proposed with a view to solve it. The most plausible explanation appears to be that there is an incessant flow of cosmical matter and aëroliths towards the sun, which absorbs them, and is thereby enabled to continue its emission of light and heat. This view, first propounded by Mr. Waterston, has since been modified by Mr. Thompson, who supposes that the cosmical matter destined to feed the sun has to make its way through a resisting medium, the density of which constantly increases as its strata approach the sun. Thus the friction arising from the rapid motion of each particle through this medium will render the particle itself incandescent, and the heat thus generated will contribute its quota to the temperature of the solar sphere. In a recent paper addressed to the Academy of Sciences, M. Faye strongly opposes these theories, first, because supposing a resisting medium to exist, this medium must move with the sun, in which case it may be proved that a body circulating within this medium will not fall into the sun; and then, because nothing has been done to try the possibility of such an hypothesis by tangible experiment or observation; while, on the other hand, what has been observed proves rather the contrary—for how, our author asks, could motionless clouds be seen during total eclipses in any atmosphere supposed to be traversed in every direction by cosmical particles with such velocity as to go round the sun in less than three hours? This latter argument, it must be admitted, is a telling one; but M. Faye stops here, and does not ven-

ture to hazard an opinion of his own upon the matter. (*Galvani's Messenger*.)

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Royal Free, 2 P.M.—Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's for Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum, 1.15 P.M.—Samaritan, 2.30 P.M.—Lock, Clinical Demonstration and Operations, 1 P.M.
TUESDAY. Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.
WEDNESDAY... St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.
THURSDAY.... St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—London, 1.30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.
FRIDAY. Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.
SATURDAY.... St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY. Royal College of Physicians, 4 P.M. Dr. Charles Bland Radcliffe, "On Certain Diseases of the Brain and Nervous System."—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Clinical Discussion. Dr. Thudichum, "On a Case of Rapid Wasting Palsy from Structural Disease of the Spinal Marrow." Dr. Brinton, "A New Auscroscope, practically shewn"; Mr. Hulke, "Fibro-Cellular Polype from the Ear"; Ivory Peg used in a Case of Ununited Fracture"; Dr. Jephson, "A Case of Myelitis successfully treated"; and other papers.
TUESDAY. Junior Medical, 8 P.M. (King's College). Mr. Yeo, "On Ovariectomy."—Royal Medical and Chirurgical, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Jardine Murray, "Case of a Double-handed Woman"; Mr. Spencer Wells, "History of Ovariectomy, with his personal experience in Fifty Operations."
THURSDAY. Royal College of Physicians, 4 P.M. Dr. Charles Bland Radcliffe, "On Certain Diseases of the Brain and Nervous System."

POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—NOVEMBER 29, 1862.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Boys .. 971	Births.	Deaths.
	Girls.. 863		
During week.....		1834	1745
Average of corresponding weeks 1852-61		1879	1445

Barometer:
Highest (Fri.) 29.643; lowest (Wed.) 29.402; mean, 29.543.
Thermometer:
Highest in sun—extremes (Fri.) 72.3 degs.; (Sun.) 41 degs.
In shade—highest (Fri.) 51.5 degrees; lowest (Sun.) 24.8 degs.
Mean—37.1 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.—4.1 degs.
Range—during week, 26.7 degrees; mean daily, 11.3 degrees.
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 89.
Mean direction of wind, N.E. & S.E.—Rain in inches, 0.10.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

. All letters and communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

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

S. T.—We believe that the sum paid to the surgeon referred to for his two journeys, was £1000.

A CARD.—The following professional "card" has been forwarded to us. It is a printed note, and has, we understand, been pretty widely distributed:—

"Crawley Villa, Crawley, Oct. 1, 1862.

"Dr. Starr, formerly of Leamington, and for several years chief medical officer to the Warwick Dispensary, presents his compliments, and begs to inform — that he has taken a permanent residence at Crawley, near the station; and that he is at all times ready to render his professional services, wherever they may be required. N.B. Medical advice given to the poor of the neighbourhood from 10 to 11 A.M."

AN EXCELLENT PROPOSAL.—SIR: The hand and heart of the medical man is always open to the wants of the poor, and by no profession is gratuitous assistance rendered so constantly and ungrudgingly as by ours. Now, too, when a great calamity casts its dismal shadow over a large district of the north, we have not been behind; the cry of the "clemming" operative has been heard, and responded to. I cannot, however, help thinking that, having acted as individuals, we may now advantageously and successfully act as an Association, in the following way. Let each associate, during the next week or fortnight, ask from his patients the small sum of one shilling, or even less; and, when the amount reaches a sovereign, transmit it to a central fund; there would thus be easily raised before Christmas more than £2000, which might be called the "British Medical Relief Fund." Perhaps you, as Editor of our JOURNAL, would consent to be our Receiver-General; and the whole amount could thus be easily transferred to the Mansion House Committee. Trusting this suggestion will commend itself to the associates, and secure from them prompt and earnest action. I am, etc., Wm. LEGGE.

Wiveliscombe, Somerset, December 1st, 1862.

[We shall be most happy to take charge of any sums forwarded to us for the purpose indicated in this note. EDITOR.]

A SENIOR PRACTITIONER writes as follows about the *Silent Friend*.

"I doubt whether any young medical man of short standing has an adequate knowledge of the actual mischief done by the *Silent Friend* scamps. In the course of a professional life, now not short, I have remarked, as a general principle, that venereal patients resort to young practitioners, and onanists to seniors. I see no end of the latter class. Every man and mother's son of them has a filthy book on the subject. In fact, I now never ask the question. But when I commence my advice, I put in the first place a peremptory order to burn the book, and refuse to go further without a promise to that effect."

JOURNALS WANTED.—The Publisher of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is in want of the numbers for August 15th, 1857, and June 5th, 1858. Perhaps some member who does not bind his volumes will kindly forward his copy of those numbers.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE following Laws of the Association will be strictly enforced:—

15. The subscription to the Association shall be One Guinea annually; and each member on paying his subscription shall be entitled to receive the publications of the Association of the current year. The subscriptions shall date from the 1st of January in each year, and shall be considered as due unless notice of withdrawal be given in writing to the Secretary on or before the 25th of December previous. If any member's subscription remain unpaid twelve months after it shall have become due, the publications of the Society shall be withheld from such member until his arrears be paid.

16. The name of no member shall remain on the books of the Association, whose arrears extend over three years; but the omission of the name from the list of members shall not be deemed, either in honour or equity, to relieve any member from his liability for the subscriptions due for the period during which he has availed himself of the privileges of membership.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., General Secretary.

Worcester, December 1862.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. HANDFIELD JONES; THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE JUNIOR MEDICAL SOCIETY; Mr. HAYNES WALTON; Mr. G. RIDGEN; Dr. EDWARD COPEMAN; Mr. T. M. STONE; Mr. R. S. FOWLER; Dr. WILLIAM NEWMAN; Mr. W. W. MORRIS; THE HON. SEC. OF THE MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY; Mr. W. G. CONDON; Mr. RICHARD GRIFFIN; Dr. MAYO; Mr. T. S. FLETCHER; Mr. BODINGTON; THE SECRETARY OF THE ODONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY; Dr. G. V. CIACCIO; Dr. TENISON; Mr. ELLAM; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY; Mr. F. JORDAN; and Dr. MITCHINSON.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. Treatise on Continued Fevers. By C. Murchison, M.D. London: 1862.
2. An Address delivered at Queen's College, Birmingham. By John Postgate. Birmingham: 1862.
3. Practical Notes on Diagnosis, etc., in Cases of Delirium Tremens. By T. Laycock, M.D. Edinburgh: 1862.
4. Lectures on Surgery delivered in St. Bartholomew's Hospital. By William Lawrence, F.R.S. London: 1863.
5. Chemistry. By William Thomas Brande, D.C.L., F.R.S.; and Alfred Swaine Taylor, M.D., F.R.S. London: 1863.
6. The Coexistence of Tubercle and Cancer. By D. R. Hal-dane, M.D.