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Apparatus for Treatment of Fracture of Patella (Mr. W. I. Wheeler) .. .. .	501	Apparatus for Artificial Respiration in Frog (Committee on Anæsthetics) .. .. .	967
Fractured Patella: Bony Union (Mr. W. I. Wheeler)—Two Figures .. .. .	502	Effects of Anæsthetics on Circulation (Committee on Anæsthetics)—Two Figures .. .. .	968-69
Box Splint for Children (Mr. H. Sieveking) .. .. .	511	Apparatus for taking Tracings (Committee on Anæsthetics) .. .. .	971
The Balearic Islands (Dr. H. Bennett) .. .. .	539		
Skull showing Section of Ear (Dr. Foulis) .. .. .	619		



A vote of thanks to the Council of the Medical Society of London for the use of their rooms was moved by Mr. STREATFIELD, and seconded by Mr. HIGGENS.

The proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Dr. GOWERS and seconded by Mr. WARREN TAY.

Applications for membership and intimations of intended communications should be sent to the secretaries.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Cambridge, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, August 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th, 1886.

*President:* DENIS C. O'CONNOR, A.B., M.D., Professor of Medicine in Queen's College, Cork.

*President-elect:* G. M. HUMPHRY, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.S., Professor of Anatomy in the University of Cambridge; Senior Surgeon to Addenbrooke's Hospital.

An Address in Medicine will be delivered by J. B. BRADBURY, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician to Addenbrooke's Hospital; Linacre-Lecturer in Physics.

An Address in Surgery will be delivered by TIMOTHY HOLMES, M.A., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to St. George's Hospital.

An Address in Physiology will be delivered by MICHAEL FOSTER, M.D., Hon. M.A., F.R.S., Prælector in Physiology in Trinity College, Cambridge.

The business of the Association will be transacted in Eight Sections.

**SECTION A.: MEDICINE.**—*President:* George Edward Paget, M.D., D.C.L., F.R.S., Cambridge. *Vice-Presidents:* George Johnson, M.D., F.R.S., London; P. W. Latham, M.A., M.D., Cambridge. *Secretaries:* W. B. Cheadle, M.A., M.D., 2, Hyde Park Place, London, W.; D. B. Lees, M.A., M.D., 2, Thurloe Houses, Thurloe Square, London, S.W.

**SECTION B.: SURGERY.**—*President:* William S. Savory, M.B., F.R.S., London. *Vice-Presidents:* William Cadge, F.R.C.S., Norwich; John Wood, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., London. *Secretaries:* John Chiene, F.R.C.S. Ed., F.R.S. Edin., 21, Ainslie Place, Edinburgh; George E. Wherry, M.B., M.C., F.R.C.S., 63, Trumpington Street, Cambridge.

**SECTION C.: OBSTETRIC MEDICINE.**—*President:* W. S. Playfair, M.D., London. *Vice-Presidents:* H. Maenaughton Jones, M.D., Cork; Henry Gervis, M.D., London. *Secretaries:* R. N. Ingle, M.D., F.R.C.S., 21, Regent Street, Cambridge; C. E. Underhill, M.D., 8, Coates Crescent, Edinburgh.

**SECTION D.: PUBLIC MEDICINE.**—*President:* Henry W. Acland, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., Oxford. *Vice-Presidents:* Arthur Ransome, M.A., M.D., Manchester; Thomas Priddin Teale, M.A., F.R.C.S., Leeds. *Secretaries:* William Armistead, M.B., St. Mary's Villa, Station Road, Cambridge; Thos. J. Walker, M.D., 18, Westgate, Peterborough.

**SECTION E.: PSYCHOLOGY.**—*President:* J. Crichton Browne, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., London. *Vice-Presidents:* G. F. Blandford, M.D., London; P. M. Deas, M.B., Macclesfield. *Secretaries:* G. M. Bacon, Hon. M.A., M.D., Lunatic Asylum, Fulbourn, Cambridge; Henry Sutherland, M.A., M.D., 6, Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, S.W.

**SECTION F.: PHYSIOLOGY.**—*President:* William Rutherford, M.D., F.R.S., Edinburgh. *Vice-Presidents:* Arthur Gamgee, M.D., F.R.S., Manchester; Robert McDonnell, M.D., F.R.S., Dublin. *Secretaries:* W. H. Gaskell, M.A., M.D., Grantchester, Cambridge; William Stirling, D.Sc., M.B., Marischal College, Aberdeen.

**SECTION G.: PATHOLOGY.**—*President:* Sir James Paget, Bart., D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S. *Vice-Presidents:* Samuel Wilks, M.D., F.R.S.; W. Howship Dickinson, M.D. *Secretaries:* W. S. Greenfield, M.D., 15, Palace Road, Albert Embankment; Charles Creighton, M.A., M.D., Anatomical Museum, Cambridge.

**SECTION H.: OPHTHALMOLOGY.**—*President:* William Bowman, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., London. *Vice-Presidents:* Henry Power, F.R.C.S., London; Henry R. Swaney, M.B., Dublin. *Secretaries:* W. A. Brailey, M.A., M.D., 31, King's Road, Brownwood Park, London, N.; David Little, M.D., 28, St. John Street, Manchester.

A Subsection of Otolology will be formed, of which Mr. W. B. Dalby, F.R.C.S., of London, will be Chairman, and Dr. James Patterson Cassells of Newton Terrace, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, honorary secretary.

*Treasurer:* R. M. Fawcett, M.D., 3, Scrope Terrace, Cambridge.

*Honorary Secretary to Museum:* G. Wallis, Esq., Corpus Buildings, Cambridge.

*Honorary Local Secretaries:* Bushell Amningson, M.A., M.D. (Hon. Medical Secretary), Walt-ham-sal, Barton Road, Cambridge; A. P. Humphry, Esq., M.A. (Hon. Reception Secretary), Corpus Buildings, Cambridge.

Letters relating to the strictly medical work (Sections, Museums, etc.) of the meeting should be addressed to Dr. Amningson; other letters to Mr. A. P. Humphry.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 10TH, 1886.

2 P.M.—Meeting of Committee of Council at the Guildhall.

2.30 P.M.—Meeting of the Council of 1879-80 at the Guildhall.

4 P.M.—Short service, with sermon by the Bishop of Ely in King's College Chapel.

8 P.M.—General Meeting in the Senate House. *President's Address; Annual Report of Council and other business.*

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11TH.

9.30 A.M.—Meeting of Council of 1880-81.

11 A.M.—Second General Meeting in the Senate House. *Address in Medicine.*

12.30 P.M.—Conferring Honorary Degrees in the Senate House.

2 to 5 P.M.—Sectional Meetings in the New Museums and Lecture Rooms.

9 P.M.—Soirée in the Fitzwilliam Museum and grounds of Peterhouse by the Reception Committee.

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 12TH.

9.30 A.M.—Meeting of the Committee of Council at the Guildhall.

10 A.M.—Third General Meeting in the Senate House. *Reports of Committees.*

11 A.M.—Address in Surgery in the Senate House.

2 to 5 P.M.—Sectional Meetings in the New Museums and Lecture Rooms.

6.30 P.M.—Public Dinner in the Hall of Trinity College.

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 13TH.

10 A.M.—Address in Physiology in the Senate House.

11 A.M.—Sectional Meetings in the New Museums and Lecture Rooms.

1.30 P.M.—Concluding General Meeting in the Senate House. *Reports of Committees and other business.*

4 P.M.—Garden party in the grounds of King's College by the President.

9 P.M.—Conversazione in St. John's College and grounds.

*Ladies will be admitted to the Soirée, Garden Party, and Conversazione.*

The following subjects have been arranged for discussion in the various Sections.

1. Medicine.—On Hysterical Anæsthesia, opened by Dr. Bristowe; and on Asthma, introduced by Dr. Andrew Clark.

2. Surgery.—On the Treatment of Wounds, by Professor Lister; and on Stricture of the Urethra, by Sir Henry Thompson.

3. Obstetric Medicine.—On Uterine Hæmostatics, by Dr. Atthill; and on the Removal of Uterine Tumours by Abdominal Section, by Mr. Spencer Wells.

4. Public Medicine.—On the General Working of the Public Health Administration in Great Britain and Ireland, opened by Dr. Alfred Carpenter and Dr. Francis T. Bond; and on Diseases communicable to Man from Diseased Animals when used as Food, by Mr. Francis T. Vacher and Mr. Edmund J. Lyon.

5. Psychology.—On the Influence of Alcohol on the Causation of Insanity.

6. Physiology.—The evidence derived from Clinical Observations and Physiological Experiments as to the seat of the formation of Urea in the Body, by Professor Gamgee, F.R.S.; and on Sleep and Hypnotism, by Professor W. Preyer of Jena.

7. Pathology.—The Influence of Injuries and Morbid Conditions of the Nervous System on Nutrition, by Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson; and on Micro-organisms, their relation to Disease, opened by Professor Lister.

8. Ophthalmology.—The Nature of Glaucoma—some points relating to the perception of Colours, by Professor Donders.

Subsection of Otolology.—The following questions will be discussed, viz.: The Therapeutic Value of Electricity in Ear-Diseases, and the Comparative Value to the various Mechanical Aids to Hearing, with special regard to the several kinds of Artificial Drumheads, and to those Instruments which assist Deafness, conducting or transmitting Sound, either directly or indirectly, to the Organs of Hearing.

#### ANNUAL MUSEUMS.

The Pathological Collection will be in the Anatomical Museum.

*Honorary Secretary to the Pathological Collection:* C. Creighton, M.D., Anatomical Museum, Cambridge.

The Exhibition of Surgical Instruments, Microscopes, Pharmaceutical Preparations, Dietetics, and Sanitary Appliances, will be in connection with the Reception Room in the Guildhall.

*Honorary Secretary:* G. Wallis, Esq., Corpus Buildings, Cambridge.

#### EXCURSIONS.

On Saturday, August 14th, there will be excursions to Ely, Peterborough, and Audley End.



*Honorary Secretary Excursion Committee:* G. Wallis, Esq., Corpus Buildings, Cambridge.

Notice is hereby given that, at the Annual General Meeting of members to be held at the Senate House, Cambridge, on Tuesday, the 10th day of August next, at eight o'clock in the afternoon, the following regulations for the conduct of Annual Meetings will be proposed for adoption, on behalf of the Committee of Council.

*General Control of Meeting.*

1. The programme of the Annual General Meeting shall be under the control of the Committee of Council. The following regulations shall guide the Committee of Arrangement and any local Committee that may be formed.

*Necessity of Limiting the Expenditure.*

2. The gradual and constant increase of the members of the British Medical Association renders it expedient to express the strong opinion of the Committee of Council, that the medical men of the locality at which the Association holds its meeting should not deem it necessary to incur a large expenditure; as, otherwise, the choice of a place of meeting must be more and more limited to the larger towns of the kingdom.

*Annual Dinner.*

3. The Annual Dinner shall be under the control of the Committee of Council.

*Papers to be Read at Meeting.*

4. All paper intended to be read at the Annual Meeting shall be forwarded, together with an abstract, to the Secretaries of Sections, ten days before the Annual Meeting takes place, excepting the Addresses of the Presidents of Sections, or the Addresses to be delivered in General Meeting.

*Directions for Sections.*

5. The President, Vice-Presidents, and Secretaries of Sections shall form a Committee of Reference, with power to accept, decline, or postpone any paper, and to arrange the order in which the papers shall be read.

*Grouping of Papers for Discussion.*

6. The papers in each section shall, as far as possible, be grouped together, so as ensure a general discussion on kindred subjects.

*Length of time to be occupied by Papers or Speeches.*

7. No communication shall occupy more than fifteen minutes, and no person shall be permitted to speak more than once or for more than ten minutes during the discussion thereon.

*Resolutions at Annual Meetings.*

8. No motion shall be brought forward at the Annual Meeting, unless it has been proposed by the Committee of Council or a Committee of the Association, or notice of the same shall have been given on the previous day, in writing, to the General Secretary, to be entered on the Agenda of the day and printed in the daily journal. This does not apply to amendments moved in due form.

*Meeting of Committee of Council. Meeting of Council.*

9. The Committee of Council shall meet on the first day of the Annual Meeting, in the afternoon. The Council of the Association shall meet subsequently, and the first General Meeting of the Association shall be held in the evening.

*Reports of Committees.*

10. All reports of Committees of the Association shall be printed in the JOURNAL before the Annual Meeting.

**SPECIAL NOTICE.**

**ACCOMMODATION IN CAMBRIDGE.**

MEMBERS of the Association who propose to bring ladies to Cambridge on the occasion of the Annual Meeting in August, and desire to have lodgings engaged for them, are recommended to make early application to the Honorary Reception Secretary, A. P. Humphry, Esq., 56, Corpus Buildings, Cambridge. The prices at which lodgings will be obtainable vary from three shillings to one guinea per day (inclusive of attendance) for a bed-room and sitting-room.

*Hotels.*—The following are the principal hotels in Cambridge.

"Bull" (Trumpington Street).—Bed, 3s. 6d.; sitting-room, 6s. to 10s. Attendance, 1s. 6d.; breakfast, from 2s.

"Lion" (Petty Cury).—Bed, 3s. 6d.; sitting-room, 5s. to 7s. 6d. Attendance, 1s. 6d.; breakfast, from 2s. 6d.

"Hoop" (Bridge Street).—Bed, 5s.; sitting-room, 7s. 6d. Attendance, 1s. 6d.; breakfast, from 1s. 6d.

"University Arms" (Regent Street).—Bed, 2s. 6d.; double bed, 3s. 6d.; sitting-room, 5s. Attendance, first day, 1s. 6d.; following days, 1s. Breakfast, with meat, 2s. 6d.; plain, 1s. 6d.

Applications for hotel-accommodation should be addressed direct to the landlords.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*,  
British Medical Association.

161A, Strand, London, June 3rd, 1880.

**COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL:  
NOTICE OF MEETING.**

A MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held at the offices of the Association, 161A, Strand, London, on Wednesday, the 7th day of July next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*,  
161A, Strand, London, May 29th, 1880.

**NORTHERN COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND BRANCH.**

The annual meeting will be held at Forbes, in Charleson's Hotel, on Wednesday, July 14th, at twelve o'clock; Dr. AITKEN (Inverness), President, in the Chair. Luncheon at 2.15 P.M.

The Secretary requests all members intending to read papers or to be present, to favour him with an intimation of this by July 7th.

J. W. NORRIS MACKAY, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.

**WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Squirrel Hotel, Wellington, on Thursday, July 22nd, at 3 P.M., under the Presidency of J. MEREDITH, Esq., M.D.

Dinner at half-past five o'clock punctually.

Members who may wish to read papers, or make any communications to the meeting, are requested to send notice to the undersigned.

W. M. KELLY, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.

Taunton, June 21st, 1880.

**METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.**

The twenty-eighth annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich, on Wednesday, July 7th, 1880, at 4 P.M.

At 6.30 P.M. the members will dine together; S. O. HABERSHON, M.D., F.R.C.P., in the Chair. Tickets, one guinea each. Members intending to be present are specially requested to give notice to the Secretaries on or before July 5th.

ALEXANDER HENRY, M.D.

W. CHAPMAN GRIGG, M.D.

*Hon. Secs.*

57, Doughty Street, W.C., June 14th, 1880.

**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Tuesday, July 6th, at 3 P.M. An address will be delivered by the President, Mr. R. PROSSER.

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), five shillings each. Members intending to be present are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretaries on or before July 3rd, in order that suitable arrangements may be made.

E. MALINS, M.B., 8, Old Square,

E. RICKARDS, M.B., 14, Newhall Street,

*Hon.*

*Secs.*

Birmingham, June 9th, 1880.

**SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST AND WEST KENT DISTRICTS.**

A CONJOINT meeting of the above Districts was held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham, on Thursday, May 27th. Dr. BOWLES of Folkestone, the President of the South-Eastern Branch, occupied the chair.

*Papers.*—The following papers were read:

1. Observations on Stertor. By Dr. Bowles.

2. On the Galvano-Cautery. By Mr. Golding-Bird.

3. Three Cases of Tracheotomy for Croup. By Mr. Tyson.

4. Five Cases of Strangulated Hernia. By Dr. Bell.

*Dinner.*—After the meeting, the members and visitors, to the number of twenty-four, dined together at the Bull Inn, Rochester.

**SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of this Branch was held in the Board Room of the Northampton General Infirmary, on Thursday, May 27th, at half-past two o'clock, under the presidency of FRANK BUSZARD, M.D. After a luncheon at the house of the President, the members adjourned to the Infirmary. Thirty-two members and two visitors were present.

*President-elect.*—It was proposed by R. W. WATKINS, Esq., and seconded by Dr. BRYAN: "That the question of the election of President for the ensuing year be referred to the autumnal meeting."

*New Members.*—The following were elected: R. Gibbs, Esq., Harrold; J. B. Emmerson, M.B., Biggleswade; and — Winkworth, Esq., Shefford.

*President's Address.*—The PRESIDENT next delivered an eloquent and able address. He referred to specialists and to medical instruction. The subjects of diagnosis and prognosis were brought before the meeting. Specific treatment and homœopathy were also mentioned.

*Papers.*—The following papers were read:

1. A Few Words on Effects of Change of Air on Health. By D. J. T. FRANCIS, M.D.

2. Scarlet Fever in Special Reference to its Sequelæ. By W. Newman, M.D.
3. Notes on an Interesting Case of Heart-Disease. By G. P. Goldsmith, M.D.
4. Cases in Surgery. By H. Veasey, Esq.
5. Some Notes on Surgical Cases. By R. H. Kinsey, Esq.
6. Case of Extra-uterine Foetation. By G. H. Percival, M.B.
7. Notes on Carbolic Acid Poisoning. By W. H. Bull, Esq.
8. Case of Abdominal Tumour. By C. J. Evans, Esq.
9. Case of Pelvic Hæmatocele. By A. H. Jones, M.B.

*Votes of Thanks.*—It was proposed by R. W. WATKINS, Esq., and seconded by H. MASTERS, Esq.: "That a vote of thanks be given to the authors of papers."

It was proposed by Dr. BRYAN, and seconded by Dr. BARR: "That a vote of thanks be given to Dr. Buszard for his able conduct in the chair, and for his hospitality to the members and visitors in entertaining them at a sumptuous luncheon."

A vote of thanks having been given to the Treasurer and Honorary Secretary, the meeting terminated.

#### SOUTH OF IRELAND BRANCH: QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

A QUARTERLY meeting of this Branch was held in the Royal Cork Institution on February 24th; the President, Dr. O'FLYNN, in the Chair.

*Medical Education.*—The SECRETARY read a letter from Mr. Fowke, the General Secretary, requesting that the resolutions of the Metropolitan Counties Branch, as published in the JOURNAL of January 24th, 1880, should be submitted to this Branch. The Secretary read the resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, with the exception of resolution No. 2, in which it was unanimously agreed to substitute "three" months for "six" months.

*Communications.*—The following papers, etc., were read.

1. The PRESIDENT read a paper on Laceration of the Perinæum, strongly urging the necessity of introducing a quill suture deeply at the time of the accident. In support of this view, he mentioned several cases that occurred in his practice, in which this mode of treatment was adopted with complete success.—Dr. MACNAUGHTON JONES and Dr. W. J. CUMMINS strongly supported the practice.

2. Dr. MACNAUGHTON JONES read short notes of an interesting case of Incontinence of Urine of twelve years' duration, due to anteversion of the uterus, in which complete cure resulted from the replacement of the uterus and the use of stem-pessaries. Dr. Jones showed the pessaries used in the case.

3. Dr. C. A. HARVEY read notes of a case of Puerperal Eclampsia that occurred in a patient in the Lying-in Hospital. The case was treated successfully by bleeding.—Drs. W. J. CUMMINS and P. J. CREMEN advocated the practice, whilst the PRESIDENT and Dr. JONES were against its general use.

4. Dr. THOS. RIORDAN exhibited an enormously Enlarged Liver, taken from a patient of Dr. Cremen's who died in the Cork Workhouse, and who was the subject of syphilis.

The last quarterly meeting of the Branch was held in the Royal Cork Institution on May 29th; the President, Dr. O'FLYNN, in the Chair.

*Counter-Prescribing.*—The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"That the practice of counter-prescribing on the part of pharmaceutical chemists being highly improper and dangerous, and the members of this Branch having learned with regret that such practice is largely pursued in this city, they therefore desire to point out the risk which is incurred by any person, not a registered practitioner, who thus prescribes. They trust that in the future this remonstrance may be sufficient to prevent a continuance of the practice; and they further desire to intimate their determination to bring the conduct of any pharmaceutical chemist so offending under the notice of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, and also to withdraw their prescriptions from him; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by their Honorary Secretaries to each pharmaceutical chemist in Cork."

The meeting then adjourned.

The adjourned meeting was held in the Royal Cork Institution on Saturday, June 5th; Dr. O'REILLY of Lismore in the Chair.

*Communications.*—The following communications were made.

1. Dr. MACNAUGHTON JONES showed photographs of a Female Articulated Pelvis with ligaments set on a movable stand, which was so regulated that the pelvis could be placed at any angle to the horizon by means of hinge-joints and screws. He used this in his class for demonstrating the mechanism of labour.

2. Dr. MACNAUGHTON JONES showed a patient on whom he had operated nearly two years since for Contracted Tendons of the Knee-joint, with sinuses extending up the thigh to the buttock. The patient

was now able to walk without the use of a stick. He also showed a patient in whom he had excised the ankle-joint and tarsus some two and a half years since. The patient was now able to stand on the foot and walk.

3. Dr. MACNAUGHTON JONES detailed short notes of an interesting case of Subperiosteal Multiple Sarcoma, occurring rapidly in a female patient aged about 48, with fracture of the right radius and left ulna; also of the left clavicle.

4. Dr. T. GELSTON ATKINS exhibited a cast of the Chest and Neck of the patient, showing the clavicle and tumour as the latter grew from the sternal half of the bone, involving the sternum and first rib. This tumour was also exhibited.

5. Dr. T. GELSTON ATKINS showed, for Dr. Grattan, a simple Splint which he had contrived for the treatment of Contracted Tendons of the Knee-joint.

*Dinner.*—In the evening, sixteen members dined at Lloyd's Hotel, and a most agreeable evening was spent.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE NEW OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM.

SIR,—I have no doubt that the JOURNAL for this week will contain a notice of the meeting held on Wednesday, June 23rd, at the rooms of the London Medical Society, for the founding of an Ophthalmological Society for the United Kingdom.

On receiving, a week previously, a printed circular in reference to it, and an inclosure with a list of the names that would be proposed as officers, I was impressed, on its perusal, by the evident pains that had been taken to conciliate the various and divergent interests as represented by the London schools and hospitals, and at the same time to secure materials out of which to elect a publishing subcommittee of tried ability. So intent and concentrated have apparently been these efforts, that the national designation of the Society has been lost sight of, and of the existence of provincial ophthalmic interests and scientific life the originators of the movement have been manifestly forgetful. One would have thought that, in the present day, the principles of representative government are so generally accepted as the only just, righteous, and successful form of administration, that no body of men could be found who would enter upon the formation of a new society without basing it upon such principles. Experience has proved that societies which have cribbed and confined their sympathies to local interests have failed to secure a permanent or considerable success; and that these same institutions, on enlarging their basis of election to the administrative body, have acquired an influence and impulse for good that has far exceeded all previous experience and expectation. I can cite no better illustration of this than the British Medical Association, which now numbers its nine thousand members, while as the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association its numerical strength was less than two thousand.

So impressed were the founders of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch (nearly four hundred strong) with the importance of giving the "extra urban" members a full share in its management and interests, that they accorded them an equal number of seats on the Council; and I may note that, before the formation of the Branch, every medical society founded on purely local influence or cliquism died either of inanition or came to an untimely end. But it may be silently thought, and perhaps even privately expressed, that full and equal representation of the provinces and universities of Ireland and Scotland might possibly clog the wheels of scientific advancement. Let those who entertain such an idea consult the roll of successful Jacksonian prize essayists, at the College of Surgeons, and they will find that in the last fifty years the town of Birmingham alone has had the honour of carrying off that prize, on an average, once in every ten years; and when the subject of the essay has been ophthalmological, two-thirds of the prizes have fallen to surgeons residing in the same town. The name of Mr. Woods of Southport, as the gainer of the Hunterian gold medal of the College, is familiar to us all.

I maintain that the future strength and stability of the "Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom", and the claims of fair dealing and justice, demand that the committee be enlarged by an adequate number residing in the provinces or cities outside of London; and, in order to surmount the difficulty of making a selection, I propose that, in the first instance, the present professors or lecturers on ophthalmology in the English provincial schools and in the universities of Scotland and Ireland shall be allowed to take precedence. With a proper code of by-laws, every ophthalmic surgeon in the three kingdoms who

## MEDICAL NEWS.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.**—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted Licentiates in Dental Surgery of the College at a meeting of the Board of Examiners, on June 25th.

Messrs. George W. Parkinson, Sackville Street, Member April 1879; and William R. Humby, Newgate Street, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Richard D. Ashby, Scarborough, Richard G. Bradshaw, Streatham, and Alfred Smith, Devonshire Road, of the Middlesex Hospital; Frederick N. Pedley, Camden Road, of Guy's Hospital; and Joseph Holland.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.**—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, June 24th, 1880.

Currah, George Ingersoll, Tottenham.  
Goude, Herbert, Burton Road, Brixton.  
Gould, William Robert, Westland Villa, Southsea.  
Hoyle, William Evans, Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
Shepherd, Timothy Arundel Jordan, St. Olives' Infirmary, Rotherhithe.  
Whitworth, William, St. Agnes, Cornwall.

**UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM.**—The following gentlemen satisfied the examiners, and had their degrees conferred on June 22nd.

*Doctor of Medicine.*—William White Day, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; Andrew Fernie, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; Samuel Fielden, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.; John Foster, F.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A.; Milner Montgomery Moore, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.; Charles Steele, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.; Henry Elthington Price, M.B., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.; Arthur Henry Robinson, M.B., M.R.C.S.

*Master in Surgery.*—Geo. Stokes Hatton, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; George Jordan Lloyd, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; William Barrett Roué; Herbert West Seager, M.R.C.S.; Joseph Pearse Budgett Wills.

*Bachelor of Medicine.*—Walter George Augustus Bedford, M.R.C.S.; Jas. Thos. Calcott, M.R.C.S.; Walter Henry Cheetham, M.R.C.S.; Frederic Collins Coley, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.; Bernard Faraday Giles, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; George Stokes Hatton, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; George Jordan Lloyd, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; Alfred Mantle, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; William Pope Mears, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; William Smith Porter, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.; William Barrett Roué; Herbert West Seager, M.R.C.S.; James Parsons Thornton, L.S.A.; Joseph Pearse Budgett Wills.

### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

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

THE following vacancies are announced:—

\***BRADFORD FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' MEDICAL AID ASSOCIATION**—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £200 per annum. Applications, with testimonials, on or before July 1st.

**BRISTOL GENERAL HOSPITAL**—Physician's Assistant. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications, with testimonials, to the Secretary on or before July 12th.

\***CARLISLE DISPENSARY**—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £90, with apartments, coals, gas, and attendance. Applications, with qualifications and testimonials, to the Secretary.

\***DUDLEY DISPENSARY**—Resident Medical Officer—Salary, £120 per annum. Applications, with testimonials, to the Honorary Secretary on or before July 6th.

**ENNISTYMON UNION**—Medical Officer for Ennistymon Dispensary District. Salary, £100 per annum, with £20 per annum as Medical Officer of Health, registration and vaccination fees. Election on the 10th July.

**GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL**, Caledonian Road, N. — Physician to Outpatients. Applications, with testimonials, to the Secretary on or before July 6th.

**HERTFORD BRITISH HOSPITAL**, Neuilly, Paris—Resident Clinical Assistant. Salary, 100 francs per month. Applications, with testimonials, on or before July 20th.

\***HERTFORD GENERAL INFIRMARY**—House-Surgeon and Secretary. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications, with testimonials, on or before July 28th.

\***HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN**, Soho Square—House-Physician. Applications, with testimonials, to the Secretary on or before July 3rd.

**INISHOWEN UNION**—Medical Officer for Clonmaney Dispensary District. Salary, £120 per annum, with £15 yearly as Medical Officer of Health, registration and vaccination fees. Election on 6th instant.

\***KENT AND CANTERBURY HOSPITAL**—Assistant House-Surgeon and Dispenser. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications, with testimonials, to the Secretary, on or before July 23rd.

**LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE**—Demonstrator in Anatomy. Salary, £200 per annum. Applications, with copies of testimonials, on or before July 8th.

**LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE**—Two Assistant Demonstrators. Salary, £90 per annum. Applications, with copies of testimonials, on or before July 8th.

**NEWCASTLE-IN-EMLYN UNION**—Medical Officer for the Kenarth District and Workhouse. Salary, £183 15s. 6d. per annum.

\***PLYMOUTH PUBLIC DISPENSARY**—Honorary Surgeon. Applications, with testimonials, etc., to the Secretary, on or before July 12th.

**SCARBOROUGH UNION**—Medical Officer for the Sherburn District. Salary, £40 per annum.

**SOMERSET UNION**, Somerset—Medical Officer for the Porlock District. Salary, £50 per annum. Applications, with testimonials, before July 12th.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

*The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, is 3s. 6d., which should be forwarded in stamps with the announcements.*

#### BIRTH.

**DAVIES.**—On June 26th, at 68, High Street, Newport, Monmouthshire, the wife of George A. Davies, L.R.C.P. Lond., of a son.

#### MARRIAGES.

**BURNEY—BUNCOMBE.**—On June 30th, at the Parish Church of St. Dunstan, Stepney, by the Rev. Joseph Bardsley, Walter Charles Skardon Burney, M.D., of Greenwich, surviving son of Henry Duncan Burney, Capt. R.N., J.P., of Howth, Co. Dublin, to Marion, daughter of Charles Hope Buncombe, F.R.C.S. Eng., of Bow Road.

**ORFEUR—JOLLY.**—At Torquay, on June 23rd, Charles Howard Orfeur, of West Town, Bristol, to Eleanor, younger daughter of Charles W. Jolly, Torwoodlee, Torquay.

**PUBLIC HEALTH.**—During last week, being the twenty-fifth week of this year, 3,238 deaths were registered in London and twenty-two other large towns of the United Kingdom. The mortality from all causes was at the average rate of 20 deaths annually in every 1,000 persons living. The annual death-rate was 21 in Edinburgh, 20 in Glasgow, and 33 in Dublin. The annual rates of mortality in the twenty English towns were as follow: Brighton 13, Bristol 14, Norwich 15, Plymouth 15, Salford 16, Bradford 17, Hull 17, Portsmouth 18, London 18, Sheffield 18, Birmingham 19, Wolverhampton 19, Leicester 19, Leeds 19, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 21, Sunderland 21, Nottingham 23, Liverpool 24, Manchester 24, and the highest rate 27 in Oldham. The annual death-rate from the seven principal zymotic diseases averaged 3.0 per 1,000 in the twenty towns, and ranged from 0.7 and 0.8 in Wolverhampton and Leicester, to 5.6 and 7.6 in Salford and Sunderland. In London, 1,273 deaths were registered, which were 109 below the average, and gave an annual death-rate of 18.1 per 1,000. The 1,273 deaths included 14 from small-pox, 25 from measles, 57 from scarlet fever, 10 from diphtheria, 37 from whooping-cough, 14 from different forms of fever, and 32 from diarrhoea—being altogether 189 zymotic deaths, which were 51 below the average, and were equal to an annual rate of 2.7 per 1,000. The deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs, which had been 230 and 198 in the two preceding weeks, further declined to 176 last week, and were 19 below the average; 94 were referred to bronchitis, and 52 to pneumonia. Different forms of violence caused 43 deaths; 36 were the result of negligence or accident, including 15 from fractures and contusions, 3 from burns and scalds, 8 from drowning, and 4 of infants under one year of age from suffocation. Six cases of suicide were registered.—At Greenwich, the mean temperature of the air was 59.9°, and 1.4° below the average. The general direction of the wind was south-westerly, and the horizontal movement of the air averaged 7.6 miles per hour, which was 2.5 below the average. Rain fell on six days of the week, to the aggregate amount of 0.75 of an inch. The duration of registered bright sunshine in the week was equal to 25 per cent. of its possible duration. The recorded amount of ozone showed a considerable excess on Sunday and Monday.

**THE UNITED HOSPITALS ATHLETIC SPORTS.**—This meeting took place on Wednesday last at Stamford Bridge, when, the weather being fine, there was a large attendance of spectators. St. Thomas's Hospital repeated their triumph of last year by again winning the Challenge Shield. The following is a brief return of the various events. 100 Yards Challenge Cup: C. D. Nuttall, St. Bartholomew's, 1; L. Stokes, Guy's, 2. Won easily by three yards.—Throwing the Hammer (16lbs.): J. Orford, St. Thomas's, 85 ft. 3 in.—120 Yards Hurdle Race: W. R. Pollock, St. George's, 1; G. H. Dodd, St. Thomas's, 2. Won by a yard and a half. Time 16 4-5 sec.—One Mile Challenge Cup: H. W. Crosse, St. Mary's, 1; H. C. Howard, St. George's, 2; E. A. Simeon, King's College, 3. Won, after a good race, by twelve yards; a bad third.—Putting the Shot: J. Orford, St. Thomas's, 37 ft.—Quarter-Mile Challenge Cup: T. A. Guinness, King's College, 1; W. R. Pollock, St. George's, 2. Won by ten yards. Time, 51 4-5 sec.—High Jump: F. W. Cattle, St. Thomas's, 5 ft. 5 in.—Half-Mile Challenge Cup: F. W. Humphry, St. George's, 1; J. W. Taylor, St. Thomas's, 2. Won by 15 yards. Time, 2 min. 8 1-5 sec.—Long Jump: H. M. Massey, St. Thomas's, 20 ft. 2 1-2 in.—220 Yards Race: H. M. Massey, St. Thomas's, 1; T. A. Guinness, King's College, 2. Won easily by two yards. Time, 23 1-5 sec.—Three Miles Race: J. R. Cater, St. Mary's, 1; H. C. Howard, St. George's, 2. Won by 60 yards. Time, 16 min. 45 4-5 sec.—One Mile Handicap (Open): P. H. Stenning, T.H. and H., 78 yards' start, 1; S. K. Holman, L.A.C., scratch, 2; R. S. Benson, Royal School of Mines, scratch, 3. Won by about 20 yards, the same dividing the placed men.

## 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.—St. Mark's, 9 A.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.—National Orthopaedic, 10 A.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., 1; 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, Tu. 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., 1; Eye, M. Th., 2.30; Ear, Tu. F., 9; Skin, Th., 1; Dental, W. S., 9.15.

## MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

WEDNESDAY.—Obstetrical Society of London, 8 P.M. Specimens will be shown by Dr. Godson and others; after which, the adjourned discussion on Dr. Graily Hewitt's paper will be opened by Dr. Bantock.

## 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.

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.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.—We shall be much obliged to Medical Officers of Health if they will, on forwarding their Annual and other Reports, favour us with Duplicate Copies.

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

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.

## MEDICAL CORONERS.

AN informal inquiry was held at Abergele on Friday in last week, over which Dr. Pierce, the coroner, presided, respecting a quantity of human bones which had been found collected together, and which had given rise to a great deal of curiosity and excitement. Dr. Pierce pointed out that they were the bones of three individuals of different ages, and explained that they had been used in scientific studies. He thought they had been gathered from the surface of churchyards by the scientific investigator, whoever he was, and narrated some instances which went to show that, forty years ago, it was tolerably easy to make such a collection of the relics of "poor humanity". He further remarked that, had the bones been the remains of a murdered person, the probability was that they would have been burned, or otherwise destroyed, instead of being carefully buried in an earthenware vessel. The general opinion of the persons present at the inquiry was that the "mystery" had been lucidly explained, and Dr. Pierce took the opportunity of expressing his opinion that medical men alone ought to be appointed to fill the office of coroner. "The explanation", says the *Carnarvon Herald*, "given by Dr. Pierce redounds greatly to his credit and that of his profession, and the case is certainly one which may be cited with propriety whenever an argument is raised as to whether legal or medical gentlemen have the better qualification for the coroner's office. It is also satisfactory that, by the complete unravelment of the 'mystery', the Principality has no longer attaching to it the suspicion of a foul crime, which a certain section of the press seemed to be only too anxious to establish." And further remarks: "As things are, and according to the arguments that are allowed to prevail among some people at present, any legal booby who has passed the required examinations can be appointed to the onerous and most responsible office of coroner. I have heard, and I have heard it with a feeling akin to dismay, that it has been contemplated to make barristers, and barristers only, coroners in future. A more non-sensical proposition was surely never advanced. A close shaven barrister, with an expensive wig and devoid of surgical, anatomical, or medical knowledge, would have looked very foolish with the assorted collection of bones before him at Abergele, on Friday in last week."

## PREDICTION OF SEX.

PHYSIOLOGISTS and physicians have both been very active of late years, and indeed from time immemorial, in attempting to discover the bases for the prediction of sex, and a great variety of expedients as means of diagnosis during the period of gestation have been very freely brought forward. The last note which we observe on this subject is as follows. The fifteenth Bulletin of the United States National Museum, Washington, 1879, contains an account of the Eskimo of the Sound, by Ludvig Kumlien, naturalist to the expedition. The author heard a young woman ask an "aucoot", a functionary who may be regarded as the most primitive representative of the priestly office, if her child would be a boy or a girl. He went outside the hut for a time, and, on returning, said it would "be a boy", but "if it is not a boy it will be a girl". His fee for this was three sealskins and a knife.

## DE PROFUNDIS.

Respectfully dedicated to Mr. Tennyson.

Out of your depth, my boy, out of your depth.  
At embryology don't try your hand,  
Until at least you faintly understand  
How ova are developed from their source,  
And then expelled at labour. Take a course  
Of Leishman; then, and not till then, aspire  
To clothe obstetrics with poetic fire.  
Out of your depth, my boy, out of your depth.

*San Francisco Western Lancet*, June 1880.

## CHRISMA, VASELINE, AND OZOKERINE.

SIR,—Will you kindly explain in your columns the nature of the difference between the various petroleum preparations now before the profession, such as vaseline, ozokerine, chrisma, fossiline, etc.—Yours truly, M.D.

\* \* \* The various substances referred to by our correspondent are no doubt derived from crude petroleum, but their mode of manufacture is kept secret at present. Being true hydrocarbons they are practically inoxidisable, and therefore form good bases for ointments. Vaseline, Unguentum Petroli or Cosmoline, Chrisma, and Fossiline, are said to be prepared from the residuum or "caput mortuum" of petroleum distillation, and we believe Ozokerine is derived from the mineral Ozokerit. We understand that filtration through animal charcoal is the general method adopted for the preparation of these articles. Their chemical composition does not appear to vary much; we find, however, that some are more completely purified, and therefore better fitted for use in medicine than others. The simplest and best test to apply is that of *taste*—the tongue will detect what chemical analysis will fail to show. A hydrocarbon material of this class destined for employment in medicine should be free from the smell and taste of petroleum. The fainter traces of smell are rendered more apparent by warmth, and the slighter degrees of flavour are distinguishable by a subsequent tendency to acidity in the throat. The relative purity of the several substances now offered to the profession may be judged pretty accurately by their comparative freedom from these characteristics of petroleum.

There is some difference in specific gravity, and, what is of more practical importance, in the melting point; thus Vaseline melts about 84°, Unguentum Petroli 93°, Chrisma 95°, Ozokerine 102°, but these points do not appear to be quite constant among different samples of the same substance. There is some variety also in consistency and physical conditions, but they do not appear likely to be of practical importance. Thus, Vaseline is smooth and rather tenacious; Unguentum Petroli is similar but firmer; Ozokerine is "shorter" and still firmer; Fossiline is smooth but very soft; whilst Chrisma, both in character and consistence, approaches more nearly to lard than either of the others.

OBSERVER.—Severe criticisms, such as those of "Observer", on a personal subject, need to be signed. In any case, they appear to us to be very unkind to the person designated, who, for many reasons, might claim particular indulgence; and it is very undesirable that they should appear.

## NERVE-STRETCHING IN SCIATICA.

SIR,—I have seen a good deal about nerve stretching for sciatica lately in our JOURNAL and also in other works; but the case reported by Mr. J. W. Long in the issue for June 26th, relating the treatment of W. A., aged 21, seems to me to be the acme of Surgery over Medicine. I have treated a great many cases of sciatica, some of them very obstinate, but have never yet found one that would not yield to quinine combined with opium or iron; and as in this case the pain is described as neuralgic, I should be very glad to know whether quinine had a fair trial before resection of the knee-joint, amputations twice, and nerve-stretching and subsequent section were resorted to.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,  
J. W. BARRETT.  
King's Lynn, June 27th, 1880.

## THE HEALTH OF SANDOWN.

SIR,—A rumour being current that there is "a great deal of sickness at the Isle of Wight," and that "several cases of typhoid fever" have occurred, "one fatal case at Sandown," will you allow me the medium of your columns to give an unqualified denial to such report as regards Sandown. The town is in its usual healthy condition. There has been no case of typhoid fever. The death-rate during the last ten years has averaged 14 per 1000 including, and 13 per 1000 excluding, visitors. For the last three years, the death-rates have been 14, 14, and 11.3 per 1000 including, and 11.8, 10.8, and 10.6 excluding, visitors.

In the interests of the island generally, and of Sandown in particular, during the forthcoming season, I beg you will publish these facts and figures, which a discriminating public will find more trustworthy than such rumours as the one above mentioned.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
JAMES NEAL, M.D.,  
Sandown, I. W., June 8th, 1880.  
Medical Officer of Health.

## THE BRUSSELS M.D.

SIR,—In the JOURNAL of June 19th is a letter from Dr. Crean of Manchester showing that in the examination just concluded for the above degree only four out of thirteen candidates were successful; this means that either the examination is excessively severe, or the candidates often present themselves when not sufficiently prepared. In the hope of giving some useful advice to those who intend to go over for the next examination (November, I think), permit me to relate my experience at the Brussels University. I took the degree in May, and there were then four candidates; one was rejected at the first doctorate, a second (also L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S., and L.S.A.) was rejected at the second doctorate, whilst only myself and another (who had been rejected at the January examination) passed. I was told that five gentlemen went up for the latter examination, and "all were rejected". The fact is (as Professor James, the interpreter, told me), since the correspondence which appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL last year concerning the M.D.Brussels, the professors have greatly raised their standard, and are determined to admit none but those who can pass a searching examination. It is a great mistake for candidates to go over before getting up all the subjects they will be examined in. It is pretty certain to result in the loss of their time and money, besides the humiliation of being rejected. At the May examination, one of my fellow candidates told me he had not considered it necessary to read up Ophthalmic Surgery since passing his M.R.C.S.; the consequence was he failed to satisfy the examiners in that very subject.

With regard to the examination itself, the following are the subjects:

First Doctorate—1. Theory of Medicine; 2. Materia Medica and Therapeutics; 3. Pathology, general and special; 4. Mental Diseases.

Second Doctorate—1. Theory of Surgery; 2. Ophthalmic Surgery; 3. Midwifery; 4. Hygiene; 5. Forensic Medicine (excluding Toxicology).

Third Doctorate—1. Clinical Medicine (one male and one female case in the wards); 2. Clinical Surgery (two male cases in the wards); 3. Operative Midwifery (on the manikin); 4. Operative Surgery (two amputations, ligature of two arteries); 5. Surgical Anatomy, with Dissections.

On the whole, the examination appeared to me to be an essentially practical and by no means easy one; in fact, I was agreeably surprised to find how the whole affair was conducted. I should advise gentlemen to endeavour to obtain honours in the various subjects. My successful colleague received honours in Operative Surgery; and I was fortunate enough to obtain first class honours in Medicine, Clinical and Operative Surgery, and Surgical Anatomy, for which I received (in addition to the ordinary diploma) a special certificate of honour. The fees amount to £22; so that altogether the cost of the degree (travelling expenses, etc., included) is from £35 to £40.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,  
M.D.BRUSSELS.

SIR,—The letter from Dr. Crean in the JOURNAL of the 19th instant relating to the Brussels degree is very significant and calls for comment. In it he states that thirteen candidates presented themselves at the last examination, and that four only were successful; six were rejected in the first doctorate, two in the second, and one in the third. Such an unusually large number of rejections proves that the examination is very stringent; but I wish to point out that the mode of conducting it presses very hard indeed upon candidates.

The examination is divided into three tests, viz., first, second, and third doctorates. The first doctorate comprises General Therapeutics, including Pharmacodynamics; Special Pathology of Internal Diseases; Mental Diseases; General Pathology; and Pathological Anatomy, with the use of the Microscope. Second Doctorate: Surgical Pathology, including Ophthalmology; Theory of Midwifery; Public and Private Hygiene; Medical Jurisprudence. Third Doctorate: Clinical Medicine and Surgery, Obstetrical Operations upon the Manikin; Operative Surgery; and Regional Anatomy, including actual dissections upon the dead body.

It will be observed that the greater part of the first doctorate consists of Pathology; and it is in this subject that the majority of men fail. If a man do not pass the first doctorate, he is rejected at once, and is not allowed to go in for the other two; the consequence is, that a great number of men who are practically well qualified in every respect are refused. In proof of this, I have known several men who have distinguished themselves at hospital, taken prizes, and held resident posts, who have made successful practitioners and have kept up with the professional literature of the day, fail at this examination solely in pathology at the first doctorate; and yet they have not gone up on the mere chance of passing, but have honestly and industriously read up for it, and had they been further examined in the second and third doctorates, viz., in Midwifery, Clinical Surgery and Medicine, and Operative Surgery, etc., there is no doubt that they would have shown themselves well worthy of receiving the degree.

The prominence given to Pathology is complained of generally by candidates, who aver that the subject is gone into with such minuteness as to be vexatious, and that really practical work is put upon one side for it. It is also stated that the examiners in General, Medical, and Surgical Pathology do not make allowance for the difference in opinion of Continental and British pathologists in regard to many most important points and theories, consequently the result is disastrous to men who have naturally studied the works of their own countrymen. I would, there-

fore, respectfully urge upon the Faculty of the Brussels University (of which I am proud to be a graduate) to examine candidates in the whole of the three doctorates, and then decide, after taking into consideration how a man has answered in all the subjects, whether he is worthy to pass or not. It must be borne in mind that all candidates must be "practitioners provided with surgical and medical qualifications," so that the University is examining men who have been already declared fit to practise their profession, but are now asking a higher diploma; and it appears unaccountable that they should not be tested in all the subjects before their fate is decided upon, and I believe what I propose is the custom at all British final examinations.

The impartiality and high integrity of the examiners is so thoroughly recognised and appreciated by all graduates, that I trust my humble efforts in pointing out an existing hardship may lead to an act of justice towards men, who, at a great sacrifice of time and leisure, study hard amid the many cares and anxieties of practice to obtain an honourable distinction.—Apologising for the length of this letter, I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
M.D.BRUSSELS.  
June 28th, 1880.

SIR,—In your issue of June 19th, there are three questions asked which the *Medical Digest* enables anyone to answer in the short space of three minutes. 1. Mr. Fisher wishes to refer to M. Liebreich's paper on the effects of certain faults of vision on painters: *vide* Section 1816:5. 2. A. M. D. asks for Surgeon Mulcahy's paper on the Similarity of Enteric and Malarial Fevers. In Section 538:3 is a reference to Mr. Barker's views on this subject; and there being no mention of Surgeon Mulcahy's paper is a fairly sure proof that it is not to be found in any of those papers which are searched for the *Digest*, and thus no time need be lost to search there. 3. T. W. B. requires information regarding gouty affections of the throat, which Sections 1468:3 and 1466:5 will enable him to acquire.—I am, etc.,  
RICHARD NEALE, M.D.Lond.

60, Boundary Road, South Hampstead, N.W., June 21st, 1880.

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

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## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Practitioner's Handbook of Treatment, or the Principles of Therapeutics. By J. Milner Fothergill, M.D. London: 1880.

Home Nursing, and how to Help in Cases of Accident. By Samuel Benton, F.R.C.P. London: David Bogue. 1880.

House Architecture. By J. J. Stevenson. Two vols. London: Macmillan and Co. 1880.

The Therapeutics of Gynecology and Obstetrics. By W. B. Atkinson, A.M., M.B. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1880.

Lessons in Gynecology. By William Goodell, M.A., M.D. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1880.

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