

## Association Intelligence.

### 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.

### WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

A *conversazione* meeting will be held at Clarke's Hotel, Taunton, on January 7th, 1863, at 7 P.M.

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

W. M. KELLY, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

### BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: GENERAL MEETING.

A general meeting of this Branch was held in the Medical Department of the Birmingham Library, on Thursday, December 11th; HENRY DUNCALFE, Esq., President, in the Chair. Fifteen members were also present.

*Papers.* The following papers were read:—

1. A Remarkable Case of Gunshot Wound. By J. F. West, Esq.

2. Historical and Clinical Inquiry into the Relative Merits of the Different Methods of Treating Fractures of the Limb. By J. S. Gamgee, Esq.

*New Members.* Messrs. Herbert E. Proctor of Wednesbury; Edmund Robinson of Birmingham; and Girldstone of Penkridge, members of the Association, were unanimously elected members of the Branch.

## Reports of Societies.

### ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 1862.

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

### THE HISTORY AND PROGRESS OF OVARIOTOMY IN GREAT BRITAIN; WITH OBSERVATIONS FOUNDED ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE OPERATION IN FIFTY CASES. BY SPENCER WELLS, ESQ.

THE author commenced by proving that ovariotomy is an operation of British origin. It was first suggested by William Hunter, was warmly advocated by John Bell, and was first practised by Dr. McDowell, an American pupil of John Bell. He then proved that its subsequent progress is chiefly due to the labours of British surgeons. He traced the progress of the operation from its first performance in Scotland by Mr. Lizars, in 1823, Dr. Granville's attempts in London in 1827, and the first successful case in England in 1836, by Mr. Jeaffreson, of Framlingham, to several other successful cases by provincial surgeons in that and the two following years. Mr. Morgan's attempted operation in 1839, and Mr. Phillips' completion of the operation for the first time in London in 1840, were also noticed, as well as the unsuccessful cases of Mr. Key and Mr. B. Cooper at Guy's in 1843, and the commencement, in 1842, of Dr. Clay's long

series of operations. This review showed that ovariotomy had never been successfully performed in London twenty years ago, although at least ten successful cases had been recorded by provincial surgeons. The successful cases in London, in 1842 and 1843, by Dr. Walne, Dr. F. Bird, and Mr. Lane, were next noticed, and the first successful case in a large London Hospital, at St. George's, by Mr. Caesar Hawkins, in 1846, as well as many other cases in the provinces in the four following years. Mr. Duffin's case in 1850, by which he showed the importance of keeping the strangulated portion of the peduncle outside the peritoneal cavity, was alluded to as the inauguration of a new era in ovariotomy. The effect of the various papers published in former volumes of the *Transactions*, and the discussions which had taken place in the Society, were then shown to have had an unfavourable effect upon the progress of the operation, as did a number of unsuccessful cases which occurred between 1852 and 1856; so that when the author began to operate in 1858, ovariotomy was at a very low ebb in professional opinion. After alluding to the introduction of the clamp by Mr. Hutchinson, and his own modifications of the details of the operation, especially with regard to the means of securing the pedicle, closing the wound, avoiding the abuse of opium, and supplying fresh air to the patient instead of hot vapour; the author gave the results of his whole experience of the operation in a table. His cases were divided into three series. The first series contained 50 cases in which ovariotomy had been completed; in these there were 33 recoveries and 17 deaths. The second series contained 3 cases in which ovariotomy was commenced, but not completed; in one, from the intestines being found anterior to the tumour; in the second, from the extent and closeness of the parietal adhesions; and in the third, from the presence of concretions around the brim of the pelvis, and to the uterus and the bladder. No death resulted from the operation; but the first patient died four months afterwards from spontaneous rupture of the cyst; the second died a year after operation, having been tapped seven times in the interval; and the third partially recovered, but died three weeks afterwards from spontaneous rupture of the cyst into the peritoneal cavity. The third series contained 3 cases in which an exploratory incision was made, and the adhesions found which had been suspected. One of these died a week after the operation from inflammation of the lining membrane of the cyst; another recovered and had been tapped twice; and the third died of the natural progress of the disease in fifteen days. He then attempted to correct some errors which tended to retard the progress of the operation, showing that many of the alleged difficulties of diagnosis were easily overcome; and that, as after other capital operations, the better the general health of the patient, and the smaller the injury that is done in the removal of any diseased part, the greater is the probability of success. He proved that when patients recovered they were restored to perfect health, had lived many years, and had borne children of both sexes. In conclusion, he left the Society to determine "whether an operation which has led to such results is still to be stigmatised as unjustifiable; whether they who perform it are necessarily open to the reproach that they do so rather to serve their own selfish purposes than for the good of their patients; whether they who, in the face of evidence sufficient to convince any unprejudiced mind, withhold from their patients a tried and approved mode of curing a disease otherwise incurable and certainly fatal, are not open to still more serious reproach; and whether it does not become us—as men of science who practise our art, not for our own advantage only, but with the earnest desire to do the very best that can be done for those who are confided to our care, and who trust in our knowledge of our skill, and our honour—no longer to condemn and oppose this operation, but rather to study its past history;

The rock upon which the jury split was the evidence of the man's apparent sanity. Naturally enough, they argued, if this man is sane, there must have been negligence on the part of the medical man.

I submit, with confidence, that there is no real evidence of negligence; but that all Dr. Semple can be accused of is an error of judgment, for which the law does not hold him responsible. The mere length of time consumed by any given examination is no evidence either of negligence or the converse.

I quite agree with the remark of Sergeant Pigott, when he told the judge that he had not defined what negligence was; and this is the kernel of the nut; for who knows but that to-morrow he may be accounted negligent when he has merely erred in judgment? The judge very properly said, it would be dreadful if a medical man were to suffer merely from an error of judgment.

In conclusion, may I suggest that the medical profession ought to take up this case in a determined and vigorous manner, and assist Dr. Semple substantially, not only in relation to the late trial, but also to enable him to apply for a rule for a new one.

I feel convinced that the verdict cannot stand; for *bond fides* were acknowledged and negligence not defined. Let it be recollect that a verdict of negligence without a clear definition, in such a case as a lunacy examination, is one of the most dangerous verdicts for the interests and safety of the medical profession.

I shall be most happy to join any subscription in furtherance of the views expressed in this letter.

I am, etc., EDWARD BERNEY.

Croydon, Dec. 16, 1862.

[We can only again repeat our conviction that no medical man is justified in signing a certificate of lunacy, unless he has, from personal examination, distinct and tangible proofs of the lunatic state of mind of the person under examination. If the evidence is of such a character as to be indescribable in plain English, or, as our correspondent says, if "the evidences of lunacy are clear to our minds, and yet difficult to portray, and impossible orally to explain to a jury led away by feeling, and a judge, etc.," our decided opinion is that a wise medical man would not attempt to describe or portray those evidences either by writing or word of mouth. EDITOR.]

**PATHOLOGICAL DIVISION OF LABOUR.** Dr. Lee of Philadelphia, gives the following account of the laundry-work business in the lunatic colony at Fitz James:—"At *Beccel* where the laundry is carried on, and employment requiring a certain amount of attention and constant physical exertion, the females are, for the most part, selected from the excited patients at the asylum. The washerwomen are nearly all afflicted with noisy delirium, and cannot be made to submit to the calm quiet of the workshop; they are generally selected from the more robust, and those best capable of performing this kind of labour. Those who spread out the clothes are selected from the melancholy patients; while the imbecile idiotic are entrusted with the duty of carrying the clothes from the wash-room to the drying department. The duty of selecting and folding the clothes is allotted to the tranquil monomaniacs, whose fixed ideas, hallucinations, allow sufficiently sustained attention. Many of the convalescents, and some pay patients, are employed in this last occupation and in sewing. The number of patients employed in this section is as follows:—Washerwomen, fifty-four; folders, eight; dryers, eight; carriers, six; general duties, six; sewing, twenty-five: total, one hundred and seven."

## Medical News.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.** At a general meeting of the Fellows, held on Saturday, December 13th, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, and satisfied the College of their proficiency in the science and practice of Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery, were duly admitted to practise Physic as Licentiates of the College:—

Atkins, Charles Alfred, Farnham Royal, Bucks  
Davidson, Jackson Graham, M.D., Coburg, Canada West  
Devereux, Daniel, Middlesex Hospital  
Fairbank, Frederick Royston, Rugby  
Lane, William Beamish, Carrigogue, near Bantry, Ireland  
Laycock, Robert, Bramley, near Leeds  
Robinson, John, Frodsham  
Worley, William Charles, 1, New North Road, Hoxton

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.** On December 11th, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Brown, James Herbert, Lewes House, Brighton  
Corrie, James, Carlisle  
Fawcett, Henry Robert, South Charlton, Alnwick  
Greatrex, Adolphus Burnell, Eccleshall, Staffordshire  
Johnson, Thomas Mason, Manchester  
Phillips, Howell Charles, Trinity Square, Tower Hill  
Purnell, Richard, Wells, Somerset  
Savory, Charles Tozer, Charterhouse Square  
Tomlinson, Philip Richard, Wakefield, Yorkshire  
Walker, John, Treaman, Glamorganshire  
Welby, William Montague Hall, Newark, Notts  
Wiley, Henry, King's College

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

Bryan, Edward, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Edwards, Henry Nelson, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Lamb, George, University College  
Smith, Thomas Haywood, Sydenham College, Birmingham

### APPOINTMENTS.

\*HOUNSELL, H. Strangways, M.D., M.R.C.P., appointed Physician to the Erith House Institution for Diseases of the Chest, Torquay.  
MARRIOTT, Charles H., M.B., appointed Consulting-Surgeon to the Ladies' Maternity Charity, Leicester, in the room of the late \*Robert H. Wood, Esq.

ORANGE, William, Esq., appointed Deputy Superintendent and Surgeon to the Broadmoor Lunatic Asylum.

PALEY, Edward, Esq., appointed Medical Superintendent of the Yarra Bend Asylum, Melbourne, Australia.

TIBBITS, Edward T., M.B., appointed House-Surgeon to the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, in the room of W. R. Horniblow, M.D.  
WALSH, R. Pakenham, L.K. & Q.C.P.I., appointed Surgeon to the Fermanagh County Gaol, Enniskillen, in the room of the late W. C. Ovenden, M.D.

### ROYAL NAVY.

HARXAN, Henry, Esq., Surgeon, to the *Pylades*.

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

WYRANTS, J., M.D., to be Lieutenant 15th Somerset R.V.

WILLIAMS, J., Esq., to be Assistant-Surg. 1st Brecknockshire R.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

GIMBLETT, J., Esq., 12th Gloucestershire R.V.

HOLMAN, C., M.D., 5th Surrey R.V.

### DEATHS.

\*BELL, Joseph, M.D., at Glasgow, aged 47, on November 30.  
BLUETT, Walter John, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon H.M.S. *Victory*, at Haslar Hospital, on December 7.  
BROCK, Henry G., M.D., R.N., of Tasmania, at Old Brompton, on December 16.

CROZIER, William, Esq., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Calcutta Medical College, on board the *Simla*, aged 46, on November 19.

DICKSON. On December 6th, in Edinburgh, Eliza M., widow of Thomas Dickson, Esq., Surgeon, formerly of the Hon. East India Company's service.

\*JONES, John, Esq., Surgeon, at Frodsham, Cheshire, aged 31, on November 22.

KIRKMAN. On December 13th, at Melton, Suffolk, aged 71, Elizabeth, wife of \*John Kirkman, M.D.

MAY. On December 7th, at Reading, Emily, wife of \*G. May, Esq.

RICHARDSON. On December 15th, at 26, Gordon Square, aged 76, Mary, widow of Robert Richardson, M.D.

**TRAER.** On December 12th, at 47, Hans Place, Chelsea, aged 3 months, James R. B., son of James K. Traer, Esq., Surgeon.  
**WEBSTER.** On December 10th, aged 75, Margaret, widow of Richard Webster, Esq., Surgeon, 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards.

**PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF DUBLIN.** Mr. John Hamilton has been elected president; Dr. William Stokes, honorary secretary; and Dr. Robert W. Smith, treasurer of this society for the ensuing year.

**UNITED STATES ARMY SICK-LIST.** Official documents show that in the hospitals at this moment there are no less than 130,000 men, not one-tenth of whom will ever fight again.

**A CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL,** intended as an auxiliary to the Newcastle upon-Tyne Infirmary, has been inaugurated in the healthy vicinity of Marsden Rock, and some patients have already been transferred to it.

**A PAUPER LUNATIC KILLED BY HIS KEEPER.** A verdict of manslaughter has been returned against one Birchall, for causing the death by kicks and blows, of a lunatic under his charge as keeper in the Brindle Workhouse, near Chorley.

**SANITARIA IN BOMBAY.** The establishment of these refuges for the sick has a powerful advocate in Sir Hugh Rose. He affirms that they would be of such service as to render the strength of the army one-fourth more effective than it is.

**QUADRUPLE BIRTH.** The wife of a gentleman's coachman, named Garrett, was delivered on the 29th of November, at Cranfield, near Newport Pagnel, of four girls, three living and one dead; two have since died; the fourth is thriving, and likely to do well.

**THE NIGHTINGALE FUND.** The plan for training hospital nurses by means of this fund, which has for more than two years been successfully practised at St. Thomas's Hospital, has been recently adopted at King's College Hospital, under the direction of the lady superintendent of St. John's House.

**EXPLOSION OF NITRIC ACID.** Last week a waggon heavily laden with cases of acid was passing through the city, when a "puff" was heard, and a dense volume of smoke issued from one of the cases. There is little doubt that the explosion was spontaneous. Eight cases altogether were destroyed.

**IONIAN HARVESTS AND IONIAN MARRIAGES.** There was an abundant harvest in 1858, and the marriages next year were 4,002; the harvest in 1859 was defective, and the marriages of 1860 fell to 1,358. The population contains no less than 116 men to every 100 women; and it is singular that for several years the births, marriages, and deaths in Corfu have all been more than in Cephalaria, where the population is greater.

**VACANCIES.** The following appointments are vacant: Assistant medical officer to the Surrey County Lunatic Asylum; medical officers to the Frodsham district of the Runcorn Union, Cheshire, and for the Celbridge Dispensary district of the Celbridge Union, County Kildare. There will shortly be vacancies for two honorary surgeons to the Birmingham and Midland Counties Lying-in Hospital and Dispensary for Diseases of Women and Children, in the room of Messrs. Valentine W. Blake, and William C. Orford, whose term of office (ten years) is about expiring; but notice has been given that those gentlemen will be proposed for reelection.

**A MEDICAL PRIME MINISTER.** M. Farini, the president of the Italian Council, is a Roman; he was an eminent physician and a leader of the Liberal party when he was appointed Director-General of the Hospitals and Prisons of Rome under the Ministry of Count Rossi. In 1848, when the Republic was proclaimed in Rome, he emigrated to Tuscany; thence he removed to Piedmont. M. Farini was for some time Minister of Public Instruction in 1850, and subsequently he was Minister of the

Interior in the Cavour Cabinet. He was dictator of Emilia and Lieutenant-General of the King at Naples after Garibaldi's departure. M. Farini was the principal negotiator of the cession of Nice and Savoy to France. He was born on the 22nd of October, 1822.

**MEDICAL APPOINTMENT.** The Government of Victoria, through the member for Pontefract, has appointed Mr. Edward Paley, a grandson of the famous archdeacon Paley, to the medical superintendency of the Yarra-Bend Asylum, near Melbourne, Australia. The management of the asylum has caused, recently, considerable excitement in the colony; and we congratulate the local government in the selection of their new superintendent. Mr. Paley was for many years one of the chief officers of the Camberwell House Asylum, where he conducted his duties in a manner which gained for him the friendship and approbation of all with whom he came in contact. He has also had considerable experience in the management of public asylums. The appointment at Yarra-Bend is for life, and is worth £1,300 per annum.

**PHARMACY IN AMERICA.** Mr. Parrish of Philadelphia, writes:—"The rebellion, and the war for its suppression have produced sad breaches in many of our national organisations. Some of them are suspended outright, while others have gone into a state of temporary inefficiency. The pharmacists have maintained their vitality, perhaps, as well as any of them. The local colleges of pharmacy, all of which are situated in the loyal States, continue their courses of instruction to classes but little diminished; and our national organisation, the American Pharmaceutical Association, has just held one of its annual meetings, which, though not as largely attended as some of its predecessors, nor so productive of important results, has yet shown that war, with all its desolating effects, has not robbed at least one liberal profession of its zeal for professional and scientific progress. The late anniversary was the tenth of the series, and was held in Philadelphia for the third time."

**DR. JOSEPH BELL,** lecturer on botany in Anderson's University, and one of the physicians to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, has recently died. Having been a pupil of Anderson's University, he received a licence from the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in 1837, and practised for some years successfully at Barrhead; but on the death of Dr. Harnay of Glasgow, with whom he had always been a favourite pupil, he succeeded to his practice. He was subsequently appointed Lecturer on Botany in Anderson's University, and also became one of the physicians to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. By his eloquence as a lecturer, and his unwearying zeal as a clinical teacher, he gained a high and deserved position. His death, which was sudden, was attributed to drinking water impregnated with lead, at his country house. This occasioned severe pain and constipation, of which he had repeated attacks. Relief was obtained by opiates, but he experienced a sudden and strange sensation, which he believed to be indicative of perforation of the bowels, and which shortly terminated fatally on the 30th ult. Dr. Bell was forty-seven years of age, and his decease is sincerely regretted both by the alumni and the professors of the university to which he was attached.

**INTERMITTENT FEVERS.** The Société d'Acclimatation has just received a letter from India, accompanied with a box containing a quantity of seeds of the *Cesalpina Bonducella*, a plant which, according to Mr. Hayes, the writer of the letter, is much used there as a specific for intermittent fevers. The Bengalee for this plant is *Natha*; it is a small creeper, producing a nut, the kernel of which is exceedingly bitter, and possesses the quality of Jesuits' bark in an eminent degree, with this exception, that it is aperient rather than the contrary—a valuable property in a tropical climate, where the

bilious system is so generally affected. One of these seeds, reduced to a paste, with three or four pepper-corns, and taken three, four, or five times a day with the adjunction of Cherettah-tea (*Gentiana cherayita*), is generally found so infallible in its effects that many European physicians in India have adopted it, and will probably in a few years abandon bark entirely. Cherettah is a kind of gentian which grows on the mountains skirting the course of the Ganges, and may be got at all the bazaars of Bengal; it is a stronger febrifuge than the *Gentiana lutea* of Europe. Native physicians employ *Natha* also as a powerful tonic; they administer it in powder mixed with spices and castor-oil; externally, the seed is applied in cases of hydrocele. At Amboyna, it is administered as a vermifuge; the roots are used as a tonic in dyspepsia. In Cochin-China, the plant is considered deobstruent, and the oil extracted from the leaves is found useful in paralysis. In Egypt, the women make necklaces and amulets with the seeds. The latter are often carried to great distances by the sea, as, for instance, to the coast of Scotland, where they are known as Molucca beans. It is singular that the remarkable virtues of this plant should have remained so long unnoticed, offering as it does a cheap and powerful substitute for Jesuits' bark, which, as every one knows, commands a high price. As this plant thrives in Egypt, Mr. Hayes thinks that it must prosper in Algeria, and even in the south of France.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. At a late sitting, a communication was received from M. Hoffmann, on chrysiline, a new colouring matter extracted from aniline, itself an artificial base derived from coal-tar. When aniline has been employed to produce the red called rosaniline, a large proportion of it remains undecomposed under the form of a resinous substance, which it has been found very difficult to analyse. From this compound Mr. Nicholson has extracted chrysiline, a base of a beautiful yellow colour, which M. Hoffmann describes as a fine yellow powder not unlike chromate of lead. It is scarcely soluble in water, but very much so in alcohol and ether. This compound is a well-defined organic base, which forms two series of crystallisable salts, the most characteristic of which are the nitrates, crystallising in needles of a ruby tint. Thus aniline produces three bases; viz., chrysiline, rosaniline, and leucaniline, each differing from the other by two equivalents of hydrogen. Prince Demidoff sent the Academy a present of a copy of a pictorial archæological album of Tuscany, by the pencil of M. André Durand. M. Ozanam wrote to state, in allusion to the communication sent last week by M. Persoz, jun., on the solution of silk, that the ammoniuret of copper also has the property of dissolving both cotton and silk; but that, while the former is dissolved in a very short time, it takes several hours to dissolve silk. Hence another method of determining the composition of a compound tissue of silk, cotton, and wool; the latter being quite insoluble in the ammoniuret. M. Ozanam also announced that he was engaged in endeavouring to turn the solution of silk to account by casting silk stuffs instead of weaving them, or drawing silk threads like wire instead of spinning them, etc. M.M. Joly and Musset wrote to request the Academy to annul their last communication on spontaneous generation.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. China from a Medical Point of View. By Charles A. Gordon, M.D., C.B. London: 1862.
2. Jurors' Reports of the International Exhibition. Surgical Instruments. London: 1862.
3. On the Situation, Form, etc., of the Gall-Bladder, in the Vertebrata, etc. By E. Crisp, M.D. London: 1862.
4. Third Annual Report of the Cranley Village Hospital.

## 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.

## POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—DECEMBER 13, 1862.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

Births. Deaths.

During week.....	{ Boys.. 953 Girls.. 933 }	1886	1408
Average of corresponding weeks 1852-61 .....		1903	1393
Barometer:			
Highest (Fri.) 30.140; lowest (Wed.) 29.664; mean, 29.870.			
Thermometer:			
Highest in sun—extremes (Sun.) 77 degs.; (Sat.) 47 degs.			
In shade—highest (Sun.) 57.1 degrees; lowest (Fri.) 39.7 degs.			
Mean—44.1 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.+3.8 degs.			
Range—during week, 23.4 degrees; mean daily, 10.5 degrees.			
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 87.			
Mean direction of wind, S.W. & W.—Rain in inches, 0.81.			

## 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.

WHAT THE MEDICAL BILL HAS DONE FOR US.—SIR: I cut out of the *Manchester Guardian* a few advertisements, such as appear daily in the columns of that journal, to show how much we are indebted to the Medical Bill (after the trouble and expense to which the profession has been put) for protection against quackery. When we consider that the various provincial papers throughout the kingdom contain announcements of a similar nature, I think we are justified in considering the Medical Bill in its present state as a signal failure.

I am, etc., J. B. H.

Manchester, December 6th, 1862.

SUBMARINE LIFE.—SIR: When the soundings were made for the submarine telegraph cable, great wonder was expressed that various small mollusca were brought up alive from a depth of three or four miles; and in your JOURNAL of November 8th, there is a notice of Dr. Wallich's success in obtaining star-fishes from the depth of one mile and a half, where they must have been living under enormous pressure. Is it not just possible that these beasts are subject to the same laws as ourselves at the bottom of our ocean of air; and that therefore in reality the pressure is just nothing at all to bear?

I am, etc., TYRO.

Canterbury, November 9th, 1862.

DR. SEMPLE'S CASE.—A correspondent writes:—"Surely the profession ought to subscribe towards Dr. Semple's expenses. We are all liable to be deceived, as he was, by an artful woman. I am certain he acted purely from conscientious motives. I know him to be a highly honourable man. If a subscription be made, I shall be happy to give £5."

We quite agree with our correspondent. What he proposes, if carried out, would be a worthy and generous act of sympathy on the part of the profession towards a most upright and conscientious member of it. EDITOR.]

**DR. PHILBRICK AND THE RECENT INQUEST AT LEAMINGTON.**—Sir: Observing your editorial remarks on the recent coroner's inquest at this place, I would beg to be allowed to observe that I never considered myself in charge of the case. A midwife was in attendance, who sent for me to give an opinion only on the case; having done this, I distinctly asked her if she was competent to manage it, and she stated that she was, and I left the case where I found it; that is, in her hands. I was never asked to take charge of the case, nor did I ever say that I was to be sent for again at any time; but I said, if difficulty occurred, and she should want assistance, that I would give it. When I said this, I expected, if my assistance was required, it would be within a short period of time. If this is taking the legal responsibility of the case, law is not common sense, in my view of it; and I shall not be so ready in future. I am, etc., THOS. PHILBRICK.

Leamington, December 15th, 1862.

P.S. I have been in tolerably extensive practice for near thirty years; and I here positively assert that when I saw the case, the two feet were presenting.

[In the article to which Dr. Philbrick refers, we distinctly stated, or wished it to be inferred, that, in our opinion, he was in no way responsible for the issue of the case. We believe that he was from first to last unfairly treated in the matter. There was nothing whatever to show that the death of the woman was connected with any haemorrhage which occurred; or that any injurious haemorrhage did occur through (as it was affirmed) the absence of Dr. Philbrick. We believe that the death was no more to be laid to the charge of neglect on the part of Dr. Philbrick than to the charge of Mr. Clark or any other gentleman who gave evidence at the trial. But we must maintain the position we then assumed, as regards the responsible attendance on the case. Dr. Philbrick had an undoubted right to have said, after visiting the woman: I cannot attend upon this case; but when he says (without limit of time): "Send for me, if any difficulty arises," he certainly undertakes a responsibility. He leaves the midwife and the friends under the impression that they can at any time have his services for the delivery; and certainly enables them to say: If you had not promised to come, we should have gone earlier elsewhere for assistance. EDITOR.]

**ALMOND CAKE.**—T. E. S. asks where he "can obtain the almond cake, which was introduced by Dr. Pavy as the diet for diabetic patients?"

[Dr. Pavy's paper on the subject is to be found in the last number of *Guy's Hospital Reports*; where we read that "Mr. Hill of 60 and 61 Bishoptgate Street, London, has undertaken the manufacture of this food for me, and is now supplying it in the shape of biscuit, rusk, and bread, within the range of price of the other substitutes for ordinary bread."]

**PRESCRIBING BY MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.**—Sir: I shall feel obliged if you will inform me through your JOURNAL, whether a gentleman holding only a diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons can practise medicine and dispense it, and if not, what steps can be taken to stop him? as it is not fair to the other general practitioners that he should be allowed the same privileges as those holding the double qualification. I beg to enclose my card (as a member of the British Medical Association) for your benefit, and to subscribe myself

A GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

December 15th, 1862.

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