

invention to lose its position easily; for he has brought a lawsuit against Signor Venini, in which he charges that gentleman with plagiarising his invention and infringing his patent. This lawsuit is still pending; but it must necessarily turn upon technical points of law only, because the methods adopted in the two forms of apparatus are open to all; and it is evident that they differ so materially from one another that, even though Signor Venini may have got his first idea from Signor Gorini's apparatus, he has modified it in so many essential points that the charge of plagiarism can scarcely be maintained.

The time necessary for complete combustion is said to be rather less by the Venini method than by that of Signor Gorini. The price of the fuel is about the same in each—that is to say, about four or five francs. The tariff charged by the Society is thirty francs, and an additional ten francs is paid to the Municipality, to whom the cemetery belongs. The ashes are placed in an earthen jar, which costs four and a half francs; and the jar may be placed in the Cinerarium recently erected by the Municipality—a single charge of three francs being made for a place in the general compartment, and one of fifty francs for a special compartment.

Thus it may be said that cremation is fully established at Milan, as a practical method of disposing of the dead. The experiment is one which will doubtless attract much attention, and it will probably be imitated in many other places before many years have elapsed. We may expect, therefore, without much delay, to have an opportunity of judging of its practicability for more general application.

OUR CONFESSIONAL.

MAGNO INGENIO, MULTAQUE NIHILOMINUS HABITURO, CONVENIT ETIAM SIMPLEX VERI ERRORIS CONFESSIO; PRÆCIPUË IN EO MINISTERIO, QUOD UTILITATIS CAUSA POSTERIS TRADITUR; NE QUI DECIPIANTUR EADEM RATIONE, QUÆ QUIS ANTE DECEPTUS EST.—(Celsus *De Medicinâ*, Liber viii, cap. 4.)

COMPOUND FRACTURE OF THE LEG WITH FAULTY UNION.

THIS case, which has given me more annoyance than any that has occurred to me during a practice of more than forty-five years, was one of a stout but fairly temperate man of about 50, who on the 9th of January last fell in jumping from a stool on which he had been standing, and received a compound fracture of both bones of the leg a little below the junction of the upper with the middle third. The fracture was very oblique, and the lower portion of the tibia pierced the drawers and trousers. With some difficulty it was replaced in good position, and secured on an outer splint, so as to allow attention to the jagged wound, which was over the inner surface of the shaft of the tibia towards its posterior border. This I treated by total occlusion, first of all with layers of lint saturated with styptic colloid, and subsequently with carbolic acid putty. The wound healed kindly; and I constantly attended to the position of the limb, and measured it repeatedly during the first month, finding nothing wrong; but he was (as I now consider) suspiciously free from pain from the very first.

I removed the splints towards the end of February, and was then surprised, and I may almost say dismayed, to find a state of things totally different from what I had found at my last examination. The union was angular, giving rise to considerable deformity, which is now irremediable.

My patient being, fortunately for me, of a bright and cheerful nature, and having, moreover, as it would appear, no eye for straight lines, is contented with his recovery, and boasts of his progress in walking. About a month ago, however, he had an attack of periostitis in the limb; and four ulcers formed—two near the head of the tibia, and two near the ankle; and, on examining the leg, I feel sure that the deformity has increased since the removal of the splints. The ulcers healed, and he is well in health and contented.

I ought to note, in connection with this unsatisfactory case, that twenty years or more ago I attended this man with an enlargement of the same limb with œdema, but without ulceration. I think the periosteum was then the seat of mischief; but he recovered, and since that has had fair health. The cause of deformity was, I presume, the retarded development of firm callus from constitutional causes, and its subsequent development when faulty position, which I had not suspected, had occurred. But ought not the total absence of pain to have given me the hint?

DONATION.—Mr. Edward Rodgett, of Darwen Bank, has offered to contribute £4,000 towards the erection of an infirmary in connection with the Royal Albert Asylum for Idiots and Imbeciles, Lancaster.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE next ordinary meeting of the session will be held at the Grand Pump Room Hotel, Bath, on Thursday, December 9th, at 7.30 P.M.; ALEX. WAUGH, Esq., President.

R. S. FOWLER,
E. MARKHAM SKERRITT, } *Hon. Secs.*

Bath, November, 1880.

NORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH.

A MEETING of this Branch will be held on Friday, the 3rd December next, at twelve o'clock, in the Belfast Royal Hospital.

Members intending to read papers are requested to communicate with
JOHN MOORE, *Hon. Sec.*
2, Carlisle Terrace, Belfast, November 8th, 1880.

SOUTH OF IRELAND BRANCH.

THE first ordinary meeting for the session will be held in the Royal Cork Institution, on Wednesday evening, December 1st, at eight o'clock.

Members intending to read papers are requested to communicate with
T. GELSTON ATKINS, B.A., M.D., *Hon. Sec.*
Cork, November 21st, 1880.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH: MEETING.

A MEETING of the Branch was held at the Brook Street Schools, St. Helen's, on Thursday, October 28th, at 2.30 P.M.; E. LUND, Esq., presiding. In consequence of the extreme inclemency of the weather, the attendance of the members was small—thirty-seven members and eight visitors. Many availed themselves of the opportunity to visit the glass-works in the town.

Communications.—The following communications were made at the meeting.

1. Mr. E. A. Browne showed a new Ear-Inflator.
 2. Mr. F. T. Paul read a case of Successful Removal of Aneurismal Tumour of the Jaw from an infant ten weeks old; with specimens and drawings.
 3. Dr. Lauder Brunton (of London) read a paper on some points in the Pathology and Treatment of Dyspepsia.
 4. Mr. W. M. Banks read a case of Radical Cure of Ventral Hernia.
 5. Dr. Cullingworth showed a case of Syphilitic Eruption.
 6. Dr. Cullingworth read a paper on a case of Diaphragmatic Pleurisy, illustrating some of the difficulties in diagnosing that affection.
- Dinner.*—Twenty-nine members and visitors dined together at the Fleece Hotel, at 5.30 P.M.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: NORTHERN DISTRICT.

THE first meeting of this District was held at the house of Dr. Henty, 308, Camden Road, on Thursday, October 28th; S. O. HABERSHON, M.D.; President of the Branch, in the chair.

Papers.—The following papers were read.

1. THE CHAIRMAN read a paper on the remedial use of Ice applied externally to the surface of the Abdomen in some cases of Intestinal Obstruction. He commenced his paper by stating that there was, in many cases of intestinal obstruction, a period when the medical practitioner was compelled to ask himself—"Can any further measures be used? What more can I do to relieve the obstruction, and to induce action of the bowels?" Intestinal obstruction might arise from causes external to the bowel; from the condition of the coats of the bowel; and from causes within the bowel. Dr. Habershon narrated cases, demonstrating these varieties of obstruction, showing that the application of ice proved extremely beneficial in relieving pain, and overcoming the obstruction, when other remedies had failed. The ice was broken into small pieces, and placed in an India-rubber bag or bladder, which was applied to the abdomen. It might be kept applied for two or three hours, according to the feeling of the patient. It was not, however, in every case that this treatment was likely to produce good effects; for instance, in intussusception, it would probably do more harm than good; so also in peritonitis, in malignant disease, and in fecal accumulation.

2. Dr. WILTSHIRE briefly indicated the leading causes, local and

general, upon which Vulvar Pruritus might depend, especially emphasising its association with Diabetes and Glycæmia; and then pointed out the remedies respectively appropriate in the several conditions.

3. Dr. POTTER read a paper on the Medical Man of the Future. He prefaced his remarks by picturing the medical man of the middle ages, who kept an open shop and sold drugs; and he then dealt with what he called the peculiar customs which still prevailed at the present day, and he regretted that he could not speak of the apothecary in the past tense: for even now the family doctor still clung to his shop, as if it had a kind of fascination for him. The existence of this so-called surgery, or shop, produced a constant strife between the medical man and the druggist, and led the latter to prescribe for and to treat disease. In Dr. Potter's opinion, the family doctor must be, in every sense of the word, the physician of the future, and the educated and well-informed gentleman; and he must play a part in life, medically and socially, very different from that of the old apothecary of the past, or of the surgery practitioner of the future.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE first ordinary meeting of the session was held at the Bristol Museum and Library, on Thursday, October 28th: ALEX. WAUGH, Esq., President, in the chair. There were present thirty-three members, and three visitors.

New Members.—Messrs. W. R. Edmond and A. W. Copping were elected members of the Branch and of the Association.

Days of Meeting.—A letter was read from Dr. Clark of Weston-super-Mare, representing that members living at Weston and Clevedon were unable to attend the meetings on Thursdays, and asking that the day of meeting might be changed to Wednesdays. After discussion, it was resolved "that the matter be referred to the Council of the Branch for reconsideration".

Papers.—The following papers were read,

1. Dr. J. G. Swayne: The Treatment of Laceration of the Cervix Uteri.
2. Mr. Crossman: Notes on Inversion of the Uterus after Delivery; with a Recent Specimen.
3. Dr. Aust Lawrence: The Prevention of Post Partum Hæmorrhage.

SHROPSHIRE AND MID-WALES BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch was held at the Salop Infirmary, on October 19th. In the unavoidable absence of J. R. HUMPHREYS, Esq., President, the chair was taken by J. BRATTON, Esq., Ex-President.

Vice-President.—J. Sides-Davies, Esq., Oswestry, was elected Vice-President for the ensuing year.

Representatives of Branch in the General Council.—The following were elected: The President (J. R. Humphreys, Esq.); A. Matthias, Esq.; S. Tayleur Gwynn, M.D.; and the Honorary Secretary.

Council of the Branch.—The following were elected: The President; T. B. Barrett, Esq.; S. Tayleur Gwynn, M.D.; J. Rider, Esq.; J. D. Harries, Esq.; Wm. Eddowes, Esq.; J. Bratton, Esq.; R. W. O. Withers, Esq.; H. J. Elliot, Esq.; H. J. Rope, Esq.; and the Honorary Secretary.

Honorary Secretary.—Mr. Henry Nelson Edwards was re-elected Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

New Members.—The following new members were elected: B. M. Skinner, Esq.; E. S. Scott, Esq.; H. J. Skelding, Esq.; Lambert Hall, Esq.; and Barnard F. Giles, Esq.

Papers.—The following papers were read and discussed.

1. Dr. E. Andrew: Treatment of Hæmoptysis in the later stages of Phthisis by Subcutaneous Injection of Morphia.
2. Mr. A. Bethell: Extensive Wound in the Knee-joint caused by Reaping-hook.
3. Dr. Alfred Eddowes: A Fatal Case of Hæmorrhage from the Gums.
4. A Case of Prolapse of the Uterus during Labour.

Dinner.—The annual dinner was held, after the meeting, at the Lion Hotel; about forty members were present.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH: AUTUMNAL MEETING.

THE autumnal meeting of this Branch was held at the King's Head Hotel, Barnard Castle, on Tuesday, October 5th, at three o'clock P.M. G. B. MORGAN, Esq., President, occupied the Chair.

Papers.—The following papers were read:

1. Dr. G. S. Brady: Two Cases of Trichinosis.
2. Dr. Philipson: On Glosso-labio-laryngeal Paralysis.

3. The President: On the Power which we possess of Aiding in Temperance Reform.

4. Dr. Adamson: Case of Ostitis of the Tibia.

Dinner.—The members afterwards dined together at the King's Head Hotel. The President occupied the chair, and Dr. Barron the vice-chair.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE seventh annual meeting of this Branch was held on Thursday, October 28th, 1880, at the Railway Hotel, Stoke-upon-Trent. Dr. J. H. TYLECOTE introduced the President-elect, Mr. W. H. FOLKER, who then took the chair.

Vote of Thanks.—Mr. SPANTON proposed: "That the best thanks of this meeting be given to the retiring President, Dr. J. H. Tylecote, for his services during the past year." This was seconded by Dr. TOTHERICK, and carried with acclamation.

President's Address.—The PRESIDENT delivered an address, consisting of a statistical record of the capital operations he had performed whilst Surgeon to the North Staffordshire Infirmary.—Dr. ARLIDGE proposed that a cordial vote of thanks be given to Mr. Folker for the important and interesting address which he had just read, and that he be requested to allow it to be published. Dr. DAY seconded the resolution, and it was carried with applause.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were elected members of the Branch: Mr. W. Partington (Tunstall), Mr. John William Scott (Wolverhampton), Mr. G. Skerving (Wednesbury).

Report of Council.—Mr. VINCENT JACKSON read the annual report, as follows.

"Your Council reports that, during the year, two ordinary meetings have been held; the meeting at Wolverhampton, on account of unavoidable circumstances, was omitted. At Stafford, by the request of the Committee of Council of the Association, the meeting devoted much time to the consideration of the subject of Medical Education, principally as embodied in five resolutions which had been passed at a general meeting of the Metropolitan Counties Branch, December 1879. Each resolution was carefully discussed, and the opinion of the meeting was conveyed to the Committee of Council in a series of six resolutions, which were unanimously agreed upon. Your Council is pleased to observe that recently the Committee of Council has nominated a Committee to consider the question of Medical Education, and the resolutions which several of the Branches have passed in reference to it.

"The following gentlemen have, by their contributions, aided in the work of the year: Dr. J. H. Tylecote, Mr. L. Tait, Mr. Spanton, Mr. Allcock, and Mr. Orton.

"The number of members is 144, twenty-one having joined the Branch since the last annual meeting."

The adoption of the report was moved by Mr. ORTON, seconded by Mr. WOLFENDEN, and carried.

Financial Statement.—Mr. J. G. U. WEST read the statement of accounts for the past year, which showed a balance of £19 11s. 5d.

Next Annual Meeting.—Mr. ALLCOCK proposed that the next annual meeting be held at Stafford. This was seconded by Mr. RITCHIE, and agreed to.

Election of Officers for 1880-81.—The following were elected. *President-elect:* J. K. Wynne, Esq. *Vice-Presidents:* E. F. Weston, Esq.; J. H. Tylecote, M.D. *Honorary Secretaries:* Vincent Jackson, Esq.; J. G. U. West, Esq. *Auditor:* W. H. Folker, Esq. *Council:* J. T. Arlidge, M.D.; Henry Day, M.D.; E. Fernie, M.D.; F. J. Gray, Esq.; H. M. Morgan, Esq.; J. T. Hartill, Esq.; Joseph Hunt, M.D.; C. Orton, Esq.; G. G. Sharp, Esq.; Mulville Thomson, Esq.; J. Y. Totherick, M.D.; J. W. Wolfenden, Esq. *Representatives in the Council of the Association:* J. T. Arlidge, M.D.; A. Allcock, Esq.; H. Day, M.D.; W. H. Folker, Esq.; W. Millington, M.D.; D. H. Monckton, M.D.; C. A. Newnam, Esq.; W. D. Spanton, Esq.

Votes of Thanks were passed to the auditor and secretaries.

Dinner.—The members dined together at the close of the meeting.

ABERDEEN, BANFF, AND KINCARDINE BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of this Branch was held at 198, Union Street, Aberdeen, on Saturday, July 24th, J. W. F. SMITH-SHAND, M.D., President, in the Chair.

President's Address.—The President began by thanking the members for the honour they had conferred on him, and referred to the good and earnest work which had been done during the past year. He took no credit for this to himself, but would point to the real organisers and mainsprings of the society—viz., the Secretaries—to the

untiring energy of one of whom, Dr. Alexander Ogston, the original organisation of the Branch was entirely, and its continued success greatly, due. During the year, the Branch had suffered by the loss from death of more than one of its members; and he could not refrain from specially mentioning, in this connection, the late Dr. Greig of Fyvie, one of the most efficient of the past Presidents of the Branch, a man of great natural ability, fertility of resource, and self-reliance—the very *beau idéal* of a country practitioner. The President alluded to the recent discussions as to the identity or non-identity of croup and diphtheria, of German measles and ordinary measles, the treatment of syphilis, the action of alcohol, and the alleged cure of cancer by a special kind of turpentine. He considered that these examples proved the necessity of instituting a system of more extended and prolonged observation and generalisation than had hitherto been attempted, in order to arrive at proper conclusions. Morbid anatomy even required the same process applied to it; and he referred to the differences of opinion regarding phthisis and tubercle, as seen in the views of Laennec, Virchow, and Cohnheim. The study of morbid anatomy—of the effects of disease—would always be an interesting one; but he believed that fully more advantage would now be derived by observers directing their attention to the *causes* of disease; and in this connection he gave every credit to Lister for having demonstrated the effects of treatment consisting of preventing or neutralising the presence of minute germs on the surface of wounds and in the tissues, and of having thus led to the conclusion that many diseases, such as diphtheria, relapsing fever, etc., were due to the presence of certain specific organisms, and the effects produced by them on the human frame. The President next touched upon medical education and medical qualifications. He was not in favour of extending the medical curriculum to five years, but would approve of taking out all subjects not purely medical, and putting them among the preliminary subjects; and he would make the preliminary examination a more stringent one than at present, as the experience of the Medical Council was that the men who passed the best preliminary were the men who got the highest marks in their professional examination. This more stringent preliminary examination would certainly necessitate a more advanced age to commence the study of medicine than obtained at present; but this, he thought, would rather be an advantage than otherwise. With regard to medical qualifications, he could not see what was to be gained by “the one-portal system”. He doubted very much whether the examination for it would be equal to that at present required at the Scotch universities, while the result of it would be to materially damage the interests of the Scotch medical schools. He pleaded for a sound and liberal education in the old classical languages, in the modern languages, and in the natural sciences, before commencing the study of medicine; and he referred to the close relationship which had always existed between literature, philosophy, and medicine, as exemplified on the one hand by the elegant diction, pure style, and graphic descriptions of disease, as seen in the works of such masters as Hippocrates and Sydenham; and, on the other hand, by the high place attained in general literature by such men as Drs. Oliver Goldsmith and Tobias Smollett—not to mention other illustrious names. He concluded as follows. “The study of medicine will ever be a laborious and difficult one; but societies like the British Medical Association and its Branches are of great service in extending medical knowledge, and also in promoting good fellowship. The progress of medicine may seem to us at present slow and uncertain; but its advancement will be best attained by requiring of its votaries a high standard of mental culture before they enter on the threshold of the temple; and, although on many points we seem to be for ever groping in the dark, still let us work on, hoping that the motto of the medicine of the future may be, ‘Post tenebras lux.’”

BEQUESTS TO MEDICAL CHARITIES.—The Leeds General Infirmary, the Leeds House of Recovery, and the British Medical Benevolent Fund have each received £2,987 16s. 11d. (being the “residue”) under the will of Miss Caroline Brown, of Cheltenham.—Miss Ann Elizabeth Watts, of Thornhill Crescent, Islington, bequeathed £1,000 to the Great Northern Hospital, £1,000 to the Royal Free Hospital, £500 to the London School of Medicine for Women, £500 to the East London Hospital for Children and Dispensary for Women, and the residue of her personal estate to the Great Northern Hospital.—Mr. Robert Linton Charrington, of Carshalton, bequeathed £1,000 each to the Earlswood Asylum for Idiots, and the Hospital for Incurables.—Mr. Wall, of Maida Vale, has bequeathed £1,000 each to St. Mary's Hospital, the Western Dispensary, and the Royal Hospital for Incurables.—Mr. W. H. Poynder, of Upper Brook Street, has bequeathed £1,000 to the Royal Infirmary at Bath, £1,000 to the Salisbury Infirmary, and £500 to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GUY'S HOSPITAL: THE STUDENTS' PROPOSITION.

SIR,—A good deal of surprise has been expressed in many quarters at the fact that the staff of this hospital, notwithstanding the extraordinary treatment which they have received at the hands of the Treasurer and the Governors, still continue their connection with the charity; and it is asked, why the example set by Dr. Habershon and Mr. Cooper Forster has not been followed by all their late colleagues. Their hesitation to take this step we consider to be due chiefly to two motives, both of them extremely honourable to the members of the medical staff; but we fear there is danger of both of them being carried to excess, and so defeating the very ends they have in view. These motives are: first, a genuine regard for the welfare of the patients under their care; and, second, a fear of injuring the medical school by hasty action. There can, of course, be no doubt that, if the physicians and surgeons were suddenly to resign in a body, the results to the patients in the hospital would be disastrous in the extreme. For, even supposing that the Treasurer was able to find qualified medical practitioners willing to take the vacant posts (which we think very improbable), they would certainly not be men of the eminence requisite for such an institution as Guy's Hospital; and it would be quite impossible to obtain substitutes of any kind at a day's notice. Moreover, the interests of the medical school would suffer most severely from such a course of action, deprived as it would be of its lectures, and of its practice in the wards; and much time must necessarily elapse before arrangements could be made for our attendance at other hospitals. We are, then, compelled to admit that anything like a sudden and universal resignation of the staff is out of the question; but it is at the same time equally clear that the present state of affairs cannot, in the interests of both patients and students, be allowed to continue. What, then, must be done? How are the difficulties embodied in the above objections to be surmounted? We, with great diffidence, would suggest a procedure somewhat as follows.

Although the medical staff would be wrong if they were suddenly to resign in a body, yet it seems to us that they would be perfectly justified in doing so, provided that they gave the Governors due notice of their intention—say, a fortnight or three weeks. This interval would give the Treasurer an opportunity of considering his position, and the Governors of deliberating as to the course they should pursue. If they persisted in their present attitude, they would have time to make arrangements for the welfare of the patients, and to attempt the organisation of a fresh staff, though we hope the *esprit de corps* of the profession would prevent anyone from coming forward to take the vacated posts. If this were the case, the Governors must either yield or close the hospital. If, on the contrary, it should be found possible to collect a new staff, we have already expressed our opinion that they would certainly not be men of the necessary ability and experience. We see, then, that the Governors would be reduced to three alternatives: either the existing obnoxious regulations must be repealed, or the hospital must be closed, or it must be worked by an inferior class of men. In either of the two latter cases, the appointment of incompetent men, or the cessation of a great medical charity such as Guy's, public opinion, already aroused, would demand a full inquiry into, and a thorough sifting of, a state of affairs which is at present a scandal to the whole medical profession; and this would undoubtedly result in the vindication of the authority of the medical over the nursing staff. Whether, then, the Governors agree or refuse to yield, the final upshot must be the reinstatement of the original staff and the former *régime*. But the settlement of this point would necessarily occupy some time, during which the interests of the students might be detrimentally affected; and the interval we have mentioned should be employed by the medical school in taking measures for its own safety, in case the battle should be prolonged. Again and again we have been told that we have the wishes of all the London hospitals with us. Now is the time to put this to the test; and we ask for their co-operation. We would suggest that a meeting should be convened of the authorities of all the London schools, and that they should discuss the possibility of making some arrangement for the temporary distribution of the Guy's students among the other hospitals, should the necessity for such action arise. Before the three weeks' notice had expired, everything should be ready for emigration; and not only must everything be ready, but the emigration must, if matters be allowed to go far enough, really take place in solemn earnest. Surely, some agreement could be come to by which we poor persecuted medicals should find a temporary home in the other hospitals of London. The need for it could only be

even recorded in Liverpool. Typhus continues to decline, only 91 deaths being registered from that disease. Scarletina was prevalent during the year, and occasioned 734 deaths, or 16 more than the average of the last ten years. Measles was more fatal than usual, owing to the complications arising from the cold in the last quarter of the year, when 321 deaths from this cause occurred, out of 445 for the whole year. Altogether 2491 deaths occurred from zymotic diseases, or 17.2 per cent. of the total mortality. The average number of deaths from these diseases for the preceding ten years was 3,827, so that the percentage of zymotic deaths for 1879 was 8 per cent. less than the proportion for the preceding decennial. The deaths of children under five years of age amounted to 76,346, or 43.8 per cent. of the total deaths; the average for the preceding ten years being 71,118, and the average percentage 47.6. Dr. Taylor's tables, elucidating and explaining the figures given in the report, are particularly full and valuable.

KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.—The total number of deaths in this district during 1879 was 3,835 in an estimated population of 146,347—thus giving a death-rate of 22.0 per 1,000 against one of 24.5 in 1878. Zymotic diseases caused a total of 329 deaths, or one tenth of the total number, against 589 in 1878, and 418 in 1877. This decrease is attributable mainly to the absence of infantile diarrhoea, which prevailed so fatally in 1878. In the latter year there were 341 deaths from this cause, whilst in 1879 the number fell to 66. The deaths from fever also fell from 97 to 53, but there was an increase of 33 deaths from measles, 54 from scarlatina, and 4 from diphtheria. The deaths of children under twelve months old numbered 965, or 33.5 per cent. of the total deaths, being a decrease of 227 on the returns for 1878, and an increase of 29 on those for 1877. As to the circumstances in which the outbreaks of zymotic disease occurred, nothing is stated; but a good deal of information is given as to the sanitary works performed and required in the district. Mr. Holden strongly urges the provision of pumping stations for the relief of the sewers of the borough—a necessity which is yearly becoming more and more urgent. The destruction of offensive refuse is at present under consideration, and it is hoped that the erection of a destructor will soon be determined on. The staff of nuisance inspectors has been strengthened, and an appreciable improvement has been made in the system of night-soil collection. Other departments of sanitary work have also made satisfactory progress.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

FETZMAURICE, W., M.D., appointed Medical Officer to the Listowel Union Workhouse, *vice* Bryan J. Kenny, M.D., deceased.

KNOX, James H., M.B., L.R.C.S. Edin., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Clapham District of the Settle Union, *vice* C. Deighton, M.D., deceased.

SPOLTON, George, L.R.C.S.I., appointed Medical Officer to the Newtown Gore Dispensary District of the Bawnboy Union, *vice* James B. Kenny, L.K.Q.C.P., resigned.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

EXAMINERS.—The following gentlemen have been nominated by the Vice-Chancellor as Examiners for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine. In the first examination for M.B.: S. H. West, M.A., M.B., Christ Church; J. A. Dale, M.A., Balliol; A. G. Vernon Harcourt, M.A., Christ Church. In the second examination for M.B.: T. K. Chambers, M.D., Christ Church; James Andrews, M.D., Wadham; T. P. Teale, M.A., M.B., Brasenose. In the examination in Preventive Medicine: W. Ogden, M.D., Corpus; G. W. Child, M.D., Exeter; W. F. Donkin, M.A., Magdalen; Douglas Galton, Capt. R.E., Hon. D.C.L.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—Mr. A. P. Luff, of the University of London, has gained the Scholarship of £150; and Mr. J. H. Fisher, of the University of Oxford, that of £125. Fourteen candidates presented themselves; of whom three were B.A. Oxford, three B.A. Cambridge, and six matriculated students of the University of London.

The first prize of 500 dollars, offered by the National Board of Trade of the United States of America, for the best essay and draft of an Act to prevent injurious adulteration, and regulate the sale of food, without imposing unnecessary burdens upon commerce, has been awarded to Mr. G. W. Wigner, F.C.S., F.I.C., honorary secretary of the Society of Public Analysts, etc., of London.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations, were admitted members of the College, at a meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 16th instant.

Messrs. H. W. Gosse, Hastings; F. T. Bayes, Walsingham; W. W. Pryn, L.S.A., Saltash; C. E. Strickland, Warwick; H. J. Blakesley, Birmingham; Alfred Hoare, Chapel Street, W.; H. K. Fuller, Basingstoke; Edward Cotterell, Rochester; G. M. Wasse, L.S.A., North Tawton; H. C. Burrows, L.R.C.P. Ed., Harrowby; J. C. Saunders, Sheffield; I. Gutierrez-Ponce, M.D. Paris, Paris; John Waldron, Moulshod, Berks; G. J. Haslam, M.D. Queen's Univ. Ireland, Manchester; R. E. G. Cuffe, Horncastle; S. H. Lyle, Liverpool; J. T. E. Mackenzie, Newcastle; and Charles Sanders, Cheshunt.

Nine candidates were rejected.

The following gentlemen passed on the 17th instant.

Messrs. T. G. Jenkins, L.R.C.P. Ed., Ruthin; John Smith, L.S.A., Commercial Road, E.; J. O'M. McDonnell, M.D. Queen's Univ. Ireland, Duke Street, St. James's; Ben Hall, Huddersfield; E. H. Locker, Highgate; W. C. Beevor, M.B. Ed., Worktop; H. H. Dummere, Victoria Dock Road, E.; A. B. Coffin, Holborn Square, W.C.; V. A. H. Horsley, High Road, Kensington; C. H. Wiley, M.B. Edin., Leicester; H. R. Fuller, B.A. Cantab, Granville Place, W.; Arthur Cutfield, L.S.A., Lee, S.E.; P. R. Griffiths, Aberdeen; C. R. Owen, Fulham; A. C. Roper, Exeter; D. C. Trott, Ledbury Road; and Charles Tweedy, Northallerton.

Ten candidates were rejected.

The following gentlemen passed on the 18th instant.

Messrs. Frederick T. Thistle, Ashburton, Devon; William Renner, Quittah, West Coast of Africa; George L. Galpin, Grahamstown, Cape of Good Hope; Joshua S. Gabriel, Ceylon; William Pasteur, Stratton Street, Piccadilly; Thomas M. Day, Haslow, Essex; William Chisholm, Goulburn, New South Wales; James McCulloch, Swansea; Andrew Baird, Plymouth; Thomas R. Pickthorn, L.S.A., South Kensington; Edward S. Cockell, Hackney; Stephen H. Appleford, Champion Grove, S.E.; Henry W. Campbell, Claverton Street, S.W.; Francis J. Pound, L.S.A., Odiham, Hants; Christopher J. Watkins, L.S.A., Mornington Road; Edward Fielding, Rochdale; Joseph H. H. Laurence, Frome; Richard G. Cooper, Southport; Alfred C. Otway, Kennington Park Road; Geoffrey Strad, Shrewsbury; and Ernest E. Griffiths, Barnstaple.

Six candidates were rejected.

At the half-yearly primary examination for the Fellowship of the College, on the 23rd instant, the following gentlemen passed in anatomy and physiology, and when qualified will be admitted to the pass examination.

Messrs. John F. Bullar, B.A. Cantab, diploma of Membership dated July 30th last; William E. Hoyle, B.A. Oxon; Ernest G. Colville and James E. Square, students of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Edward S. Bishop and Charles Plant, of the Manchester School; Percy Warner, of Guy's Hospital; and Arthur R. Edwards, of King's College.

Eight candidates were rejected.

The following gentlemen passed on the 24th instant.

Messrs. Francis H. Weekes, of St. Thomas's Hospital; and John H. Russell, of the London Hospital.

Twelve rejected, out of the twenty-two, for six months.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

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

The following vacancies are announced:—

***ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS**, Earlswood, Redhill.—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £150 per annum, with board and washing. Applications, with testimonials, to the Secretary, on or before December 20th.

BATH HOSPITAL, Harrogate.—Secretary and Dispenser. Applications, with testimonials, to the Secretary, before January 6th, 1881.

BORRISOKANE UNION—Medical Officer for Workhouse, at a salary of £60 per annum. Election on the 29th instant.

BURTON-ON-TRENT AMALGAMATED FRIENDLY SOCIETIES MEDICAL ASSOCIATION—Medical Officer. Salary, £200 per annum, with residence, coals, and gas. Applications, with testimonials, to the Secretary, not later than November 30th.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL—Assistant-Physician. Applications, with testimonials, on or before November 27th.

DARLINGTON HOSPITAL—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications, with testimonials, at once.

***DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON MEDICAL SCHOOL**—Medical Tutor. Salary, £40 per annum. Applications on or before December 14th.

DERBYSHIRE GENERAL INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 for first year, increasing £10 annually up to £150, with apartments, board, and washing. Applications, with testimonials, to the Secretary, not later than December 4th.

***DORSET COUNTY ASYLUM**—House-Surgeon. Salary, £70 per annum, and £10 additional as Secretary. Applications, with testimonials, to the Chairman, on or before January 12th, 1881.

EVELINA HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN—Registrar and Chloroformist. Salary, £50 per annum, with an additional £20 if the post be held for twelve months. Applications, with testimonials, not later than December 7th.

FRENCH HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY, Leicester Square, W.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £60 per annum, with board, furnished apartments, and attendance. Applications as early as possible, with testimonials, to the Assistant Secretary.

- GLENTIES UNION—Medical Officer for Ardara Dispensary District. Salary, £100 per annum, with £15 as Medical Officer of Health, registration and vaccination fees. Election on the 30th instant.
- HUNTS. COUNTY HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon. Salary, £60 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications, with testimonials, on or before December 3rd.
- *KING'S COLLEGE, London.—Curator of the Anatomical Museum. Applications to the Secretary.
- *LEICESTER INFIRMARY AND FEVER HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon and Apothecary. Testimonials, addressed to the Secretary's Office, 24, Friar Lane, on or before Monday, December 13th.
- LEICESTER INFIRMARY—Honorary Physician. Applications, with testimonials, to the Secretary, not later than November 29th.
- LISNASKEA UNION—Medical Officer for Brookeborough Dispensary District. Salary, £115 per annum, with £15 as Medical Officer of Health, registration and vaccination fees. Applications received to 14th proximo, when a day will be appointed for election.
- LISNASKEA UNION—Medical Officer for Workhouse, at a salary of £45 per annum; and Consulting Sanitary Officer, at a fee of £2 for each consultation. Election on the 4th December.
- *LIVERPOOL NORTHERN HOSPITAL—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £70 per annum, with board and residence. Applications, with testimonials, not later than December 11th.
- MEATH HOSPITAL AND COUNTY DUBLIN INFIRMARY—Resident Surgeon and Apothecary. Salary, about £250 per annum, with lighting, fire, and attendance. Applications not later than November 30th.
- MUTHILL, Parish of, Perthshire—Medical Officer. Salary, £50 per annum. Applications on or before November 30th.
- NOTTINGHAM DISPENSARY—Resident Surgeon. Salary, £200 per annum, with furnished apartments, gas, and coals. Applications, with testimonials, on or before December 20th; election January 3rd, 1881.
- PONTEFRAC GENERAL DISPENSARY—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £130 per annum, with apartments, coals, and gas. Applications on or before November 30th.
- *ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY—Physician for the Eastern District. A stipend of £60 per annum. Applications, with copies of testimonials, before December 1st.
- ROYAL SOUTH LONDON DISPENSARY—Honorary District Surgeon. Applications on or before December 30th.
- ROYAL SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL, Guildford—House-Surgeon. Salary, £75 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications, with testimonials, on or before December 6th.
- *ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL—Casualty Physician. Applications, with testimonials, on or before December 6th.
- ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, Chatham—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with board, lodging, washing, etc. Applications, with testimonials, on or before December 13th.
- ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, Paddington, W.—Resident Registrar. Salary, £100 per annum, with board and residence. Applications to the Secretary on or before November 27th.
- WEST END HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM—Assistant Physician. Applications to the Honorary Secretary.
- WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL—House-Physician. Appointment for six months, with board and lodging. Applications to the Secretary not later than Nov. 27th.
- WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL—Surgical Registrar. Salary, £40 per annum. Applications on or before November 27th.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

- BANKS, Wm., M.B., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Friends' Retreat, York, *vice* C. M. Campbell, M.B., resigned.
- *BENNETT, Storer, L.R.C.P., appointed Assistant Dental Surgeon to the Dental Hospital of London.
- *FOX, T. Calcott, B.A., M.B., appointed Honorary Assistant Physician to the Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, *vice* J. Pearson Irvine, B.A., M.D., deceased.
- HORMAZDJI, Robert N., M.R.C.S.E., appointed Resident Surgeon and Honorary Secretary to the Cheltenham General Hospital Branch Dispensary, *vice* J. G. Boughton, L.R.C.S.Ed., resigned.
- LAWFORD, J. B., M.D., appointed Ophthalmic Assistant to St. Thomas's Hospital.
- MCDERMOTT, P., L.R.C.S.I., appointed House-Surgeon to St. Michael's Hospital, Dublin.
- RICHARDSON, C.B., L.R.C.P., appointed Assistant House-Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital.
- SHAW, J., M.B., appointed Resident Accoucheur to St. Thomas's Hospital.
- SMYTH, A. C. Butler, M.R.C.S.Eng., etc., appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Brighton and Hove Lying-in Institution and Hospital for Diseases of Women and Children.
- *SPENCE, James Beveridge, M.D., appointed Medical Superintendent of the Staffordshire Asylum at Burntwood, near Lichfield, *vice* R. A. Davis, M.D., resigned.
- SWALE, H., L.R.C.P., appointed Assistant House-Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital.
- WAGSTAFF, Ernest H., M.R.C.S.Eng., appointed Assistant House Surgeon to the Hull General Infirmary, *vice* W. H. Smith, M.R.C.S., resigned.
- WATT, George, M.D., elected Medical Officer to the Aberdeen General Dispensary, *vice* R. J. Garden, M.D., resigned.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

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

BIRTH.

- WRIGHT.—On the 9th of November, the wife of Francis James Wright, M.D., of Northumberland House, Stoke Newington, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

- HOFFMEISTER—ROBY.—November 16th, at Holy Trinity, Paddington, by the Rev. J. C. Hose, assisted by the Rev. C. W. Whitfield, Dr. John B. Hoffmeister, of Brighton, second son of Dr. Hoffmeister, Surgeon to the Queen, of West Cowes, Isle of Wight, to Fanny Georgiana, youngest daughter of C. J. Roby, Esq., of 50, Gloucester Gardens, Hyde Park. No cards.
- SCOTT—DICKSON.—At Inveresk House, Musselburgh, N.B., on the 17th instant, by the Rev. J. G. Beveridge, Minister of Inveresk, Thomas Rennie Scott, M.B. Edin., to Emily Jane Charlotte Elizabeth, only daughter of the late David James Dickson, Esq.

DEATH.

- DEIGHTON.—At Clapham, Yorkshire, on the 21st instant, C. Deighton, M.D., aged 56.

MR. PHILIP N. WAGGETT, son of Dr. John Waggett, of Ladbroke Grove, has been elected to the Science Exhibition, at Charterhouse School; and to the Holford Exhibition, at Christchurch, Oxford.

GLASGOW HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY FOR THE DISEASES OF THE EAR.—Mr. James C. Robertson has been reappointed, for the further term of six months, as Senior Clinical Assistant in the above hospital; and Mr. George Haddow has been appointed Junior Clinical Assistant for a term of six months, *vice* Mr. W. B. Violette, whose term of office has expired.

PRESENTATION.—On November 16th, the members of the Provident Dispensary attached to Messrs. Sangye Brothers, Cornwall Works, Soho, Birmingham, presented their late medical officer, Cordley Bradford, L.R.C.P.London, with an illuminated address, and a gold watch of the value of £25, as a token of the respect in which he was held by them.

VACCINATION.—Dr. C. G. Ellis, of Attleborough, has received, for the fourth time, a Government grant for successful vaccination in his district; the amount being £12 7s.—Mr. Burroughs has been awarded the Government grant of £4 15s., for successful vaccination in the Nunney district of the Frome Union.—Dr. Mulville Thomson, of Newport, Salop, has been awarded the Government grant of the first class for efficient vaccination.—The Local Government Board has voted Dr. J. S. Walker a grant for successful vaccination in the Bucknall district of Stoke-upon-Trent.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—During last week, being the forty-sixth week of this year, 5,433 births and 3,564 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 22 deaths annually in every 1,000 persons living. The annual death-rate was 22 in Edinburgh, 19 in Glasgow, and 33 in Dublin. The annual rates of mortality in the twenty English towns were as follow: Birmingham, 16; Hull, 16; Sheffield, 19; Leeds, 19; Wolverhampton, 19; Plymouth, 19; Bradford, 20; Brighton, 20; Portsmouth, 21; London, 21; Sunderland, 21; Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 22; Manchester, 22; Nottingham, 23; Leicester, 23; Salford, 24; Bristol, 24; Oldham, 24; Norwich, 24; and the highest rate, 25, in Liverpool. The annual death-rate from the seven principal zymotic diseases averaged 2.6 per 1,000 in the twenty towns, and ranged from 0.7 and 1.0 in Plymouth and Hull, to 4.3 and 6.3 in Norwich and Sunderland. Scarlet fever showed the largest proportional fatality in Sunderland, Oldham, Norwich, and Salford; and whooping-cough in Sunderland. The 19 fatal cases of diphtheria included 12 in London, 2 in Liverpool, and 2 in Portsmouth. The highest death-rates from enteric fever occurred in Portsmouth and Norwich. Small-pox caused 10 more deaths in London, but not one in any of the nineteen large provincial towns. In London, 1,489 deaths were registered, which were 232 below the average, and gave an annual death-rate of 21.2. The 1,489 deaths included 10 from small-pox, 41 from measles, 66 from scarlet fever, 12 from diphtheria, 16 from whooping-cough, 17 from different forms of fever, and 22 from diarrhoea—being altogether 184 zymotic deaths, which were 73 below the average, and were equal to an annual rate of 2.6 per 1,000. The deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs, which had steadily increased from 124 to 421 in the ten preceding weeks, declined to 332 last week, and were no fewer than 112 below the average; 195 were attributed to bronchitis, and 97 to pneumonia. Different forms of violence caused 65 deaths; 62 were the result of negligence or accident, including 27 from fractures and contusions, 6 from burns and scalds, 4 from drowning, 2 from poison, and 21 of infants under one year of age from suffocation. At Greenwich, the mean temperature of the air was 40.8°, and 0.8° below the average. The direction of the wind was variable, and the horizontal movement of the air averaged 16.6 miles per hour, which was 4.3 above the average. Rain fell on five days of the week, to the aggregate amount of 1.38 inches. The duration of registered bright sunshine in the week was equal to 13 per cent. of its possible duration.

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.—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..... King's College, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Royal South London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Guy's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department), 2 P.M.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.

SATURDAY... St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 P.M.—Royal Free, 9 A.M. and 2 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.

HOURS OF ATTENDANCE AT THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

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

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

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

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

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

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, 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, Tu. 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.

MONDAY.—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. T. Gilbert Smith, "A Case of Perforation of the Stomach, due to Hydrochloric Acid Poisoning"; Mr. Richard Davy, "The Advantages of Ogston's Operation in the Treatment of Genu Valgum". Mr. Samuel Benton will show a case of Recovery from Severe Knock-Knee, treated by Tenotomy and Instrumental Means.

WEDNESDAY.—Epidemiological Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. E. Dickson, "The Report of the Turkish Medical Commissioner (Dr. Giovanni Cabiadis) on the Outbreak of Plague in the Province of Astrakhan (1878-79)".

THURSDAY.—Harveian Society of London, 8.30 P.M. First Harveian Lecture. Dr. James E. Pollock, "On the Prognosis and Treatment of Chronic Diseases of the Chest in relation to Modern Pathology".

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 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 Manager, 161A, Strand, W.C.

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

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND INTERPERANCE IN ALCOHOL.

SIR,—As an old lay temperance worker and a total abstainer for upwards of forty years, may I be permitted to say a word on the subject of Mr. Baker's letter? During my career as a total abstainer, it has been my lot to suffer from two rather serious, though brief, periods of sickness. On the first occasion, it was my privilege to be attended by an able local physician, who was also a personal friend. While passing through the most critical period of this illness, no mention was made of alcoholics; but, during convalescence, the duty of taking some amount of alcohol was very kindly urged; with an intimation that, if the advice were not followed, I ran the risk of sacrificing my life, or materially retarding my recovery—if, indeed, I ever should recover without it. Having then disused alcohol for many years; having been greatly impressed by the evils which grew up out of its use; and feeling, also, that my taking it, even medicinally, would diminish my usefulness in temperance work, I absolutely refused to take it. My recovery from that illness was not unusually slow, and, I am thankful to say, complete.

I think we are justified in asking that medical men should adduce some well defined reasons for their practice of so frequently recommending the use of alcoholic beverages—the more so when their prescription of alcohol to reclaimed drunkards, in the shape of brandy, wine, or porter, is productive of such great evil. A long experience convinces me that, in such cases, the craving returns with redoubled force.—I am, sir, yours truly,
St. Leonard's-on-Sea.

RICHARD BEAGLEY.

A MEMBER must restate his request, and forward his name. We cannot attend to anonymous communications.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF ANÆSTHETICS.

SIR,—I beg to forward for your notice the report of an inquest on a case of death from chloroform at Devonport, and some correspondence which has resulted therefrom. The object of my letter was to inform the readers of the *Western Morning News* that professional opinion on the question of galvanism in cases of failure, sudden or otherwise, of the heart's action under chloroform was by no means so favourable as its energetic advocacy by Dr. Row would lead them to suppose. Though the subject was only fit for discussion in a medical paper, I thought it better then and there to protest against the views advanced by Dr. Row, as the general public is quite ready to believe statements so forcibly and confidently put before them if they are allowed to pass without notice. Though I am only a junior surgeon to a provincial hospital, Dr. Row knows very well that, while I was resident medical officer to the Royal Albert Hospital, I administered the anæsthetics in all cases for a period of nearly five years; and, therefore, I had some slight claim to an opinion on the subject. In the present state of our knowledge, I must here express my concurrence in the view of Mr. Hutchinson, that chloroform should be restricted to cases of old people and young children, and I would also add midwifery and some prolonged operations about the mouth and face, where it is difficult to use ether.

In conclusion, I dare say the profession would be glad to have an account of half-a-dozen of the cases where recovery is said to have followed the judicious application of galvanism.—Your obedient servant, GEO. THOM, Junior Surgeon, Devonport, November 8th, 1880. Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport.

PRACTITIONER might wait till the new comer left his card.

HOSPITAL DRAINAGE AND VENTILATION.

SIR,—Where could I see in operation the simplest, cheapest, best, and most approved systems of drainage and ventilation suitable to a moderate sized special hospital?—I am, sir, your faithful servant,
T.

* A very effective simple system of drainage and ventilation has been recently carried out by Mr. Eassie, C.E., of 11, Argyle Street, at the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth; and he would, no doubt, agree to meet our correspondent at the hospital, and explain it to him.

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

SIR,—I have read with much interest the letter, under the above, in the JOURNAL of November 13th, by Mr. Phillips, and concur in his opinion that the time has now come when medical practitioners should be remunerated on a different footing than is at present done. Sanitation is advancing with rapid strides, and high authorities are beginning to foretell the time when many of the diseases to which flesh was long heir will be banished from the land; and when this time does arrive, it is evident that medical aid will not be required. Then what is the poor doctor to do to keep the wolf away from his door? A medical man endeavouring to prevent disease is working in his own light, and yet to do so is one of the greatest aims he has; but it is sad to think that the more he succeeds, the less he will be appreciated by the public—at least, as far as his fees are concerned.

If it be true that "Prevention is better than cure", I think it is evident that medical men should be paid to prevent, even more than they are to cure; and the sooner this is laid plainly before the public, the better it will be both for medical men and the public. The enormous extent to which the public are now educated on health and sanitary subjects, in itself is almost sufficient to alarm the doctor, who naturally begins to wonder where he is to get his bread. The public ought to be shown that it is preferable to pay to be kept in good health than to pay to be cured, at a time often when the poor patients' funds are already at a low ebb, and the doctor's sympathies are so awakened that often he has to pocket nothing but thanks for all his labour.

I think there is one fault in the club system (although it is an excellent plan on the whole), and that is, a single man has to pay equally with a married man, and, it may be, ten or a dozen of a family. To obviate this, my idea would be to charge per head, and, it may be, according to age. With this change, I think the club system should be introduced into private practice. No doubt, the change is so radical it would meet with considerable opposition; but were the medical profession to be unanimous, that would soon disappear, and through time the public would see it was entirely for their benefit. I trust that the medical world may raise such an agitation, in the pages of your and other valuable journals, that ere long the general practitioner will be paid to keep away disease, instead of struggling—often unsuccessfully—with many diseases that could be prevented.—I am, yours truly,
November 15th, 1880.

PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE.

ANOTHER G. P. must append his name to his letter if he wishes it published.

PARISH OR DISTRICT NURSE.

SIR,—I shall be much obliged if anyone acquainted with the arrangements for a parish or district nurse to the poor at their own homes will let me know the salary given and particulars, such as rules for her and for patients' guidance. It is intended that she should receive a definite sum *per annum*, and rooms; but how about board? She is to be a thoroughly trained nurse.—Yours very truly,
Capel, Surrey, November 26th, 1880.

J. LEE JARDINE.

