

female servants, who had not partaken of the soup but eaten of the rabbits themselves, were seized by violent vomiting and severe abdominal pains. After medical aid had been procured, nine of the sufferers recovered; but the case of the cook proved intractable, and she died in great agony. Drs. MacNee and Macdonald, of Inverness, made a *post mortem* examination of the body of the cook, and, it is stated, found evidence of poisoning. More precise information will, however, require further time. At present it seems likely that some poisonous material had been by mistake introduced into the soup.

#### THE TEMPERATURE IN SCOTLAND DURING AUGUST.

SINCE the end of May, very little summer weather, either as regards temperature or fair weather, has been experienced over the greater part of Scotland. Some observations by Dr. Alexander Brown of the temperature at Arbroath during August are of interest, as recording accurately what prevailed there. In the shade there the thermometer ranged from 73° on the 4th to 39° on the 29th, and the mean temperature of the month was 54.8°. Thus it was the coldest month of August since 1845, when the mean monthly temperature was 54.6°. The mean temperature of August from 1843 to 1881, inclusive, was 57.6°.

#### OPHTHALMOLOGY: MIDDLEMORE FUND PRIZE ESSAY.

THE interest on the fund of £500 given in trust to the British Medical Association by Mr. Richard Middlemore of Birmingham, to found a prize for the best essay on Ophthalmology, having accumulated for three years, the Committee of Council now offer, in accordance with the terms of the trust deed, a prize of £50 for the best essay on the Scientific and Practical Value of Improvements in Ophthalmological Medicine and Surgery made or published during the past three years. The successful essay will be the property of the Association. Essays must be in English or accompanied by an English translation, and forwarded under cover, with a sealed envelope bearing the motto of the essay, and containing the name and address of the author, addressed to the General Secretary of the British Medical Association, 161A, Strand, London, and must be in his hands on or before May 31st, 1882.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held at the offices of the Association, 161A, Strand, on Wednesday, the 12th day of October, next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.  
161A, Strand, London, September 6th, 1881.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

**NORTH WALES BRANCH.**—The thirty-second annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Pull-y-crochon Hotel, Colwyn Bay (near Conway), on Thursday, September 22nd, under the presidency of Dr. Samuel Griffith of Portmadoc. Dr. Wm. Roberts of Manchester has promised to read a paper on Micro-organisms in the Urine; and Mr. Lawson Tait one on The Diagnosis and Treatment of Chronic Inflammation of the Ovary. Members of the Branch desirous of reading papers at this meeting are requested to communicate their titles to the Honorary Secretary.—J. LLOYD ROBERTS, Honorary Secretary.

**SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.**—The autumnal meeting of the above Branch will take place at Leighton Buzzard, on Tuesday, September 27th; H. Rogers, Esq., President. Further particulars will be shortly announced. Gentlemen desirous of reading papers are requested to send the titles forthwith to the Honorary Secretary of the Branch, GEO. F. KIRBY SMITH, Northampton.—August 31st, 1881.

**LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.**—A special meeting of this Branch will be held at the Medical Institution, Liverpool, on Wednesday, September 21st, at 5 P.M., to consider the subject of Consultations with Homœopaths.

An ordinary meeting of the same Branch will be held at Bolton, on Thursday, October 13th. Members desirous of reading communications, etc., are requested to send an intimation to the Honorary Secretary immediately.—A. DAVIDSON, Honorary Secretary, 2, Gambier Terrace, Liverpool.—September 3rd, 1881.

**EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH.**—The autumnal meeting of this Branch will be held at the Swan Inn, Southwold, on Friday, September 30th, at 2 P.M.; Charles Palmer, Esq., Senior Surgeon Great Yarmouth Hospital, President. It is requested that members desirous of reading papers or exhibiting specimens will give immediate notice to one of the Honorary Secretaries.—W. A. ELLISTON, M.D., Ipswich; M. BEVERLEY, M.D., Norwich Honorary Secretaries

**SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SUSSEX DISTRICT.**—The first meeting of the above district for the present season will be held on Friday, the 30th instant, at the Station Hotel, Hayward's Heath; Dr. Byass of Cuckfield in the chair. The meeting will be at 3.30 P.M. Dinner at 5.30 P.M. Communications are invited; and it is requested that notice thereof may be sent at once to the Secretary.—T. JENNER VERRALL, Honorary Secretary, 20, Bedford Place, Brighton.—September 5th, 1881.

**EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN BRANCH.**—The autumn Meeting of this Branch will be held at Beverley on Thursday, September 22nd, at 4.15 P.M. Gentlemen who desire to make any communication, or to propose any resolution, are requested to inform the Secretary not later than the 14th inst. The time allotted to each communication is limited to fifteen minutes.—E. P. HARDEY, Hon. Sec.—Sept. 5th, 1881.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### COMPULSORY PERIODS OF STUDY.

SIR,—I am pleased to see that Mr. Savory has not allowed to pass unchallenged Mr. Hutchinson's remark, "that the practice of liberal rejection of candidates imperfectly qualified really amounts to the same thing, and attains the same end, with much justice to the diligent and able," as the extension of the compulsory period of study. So "liberal," indeed, have the rejections been of late, that it is by no means rare to hear it remarked that to be rejected at the College is no disgrace. Should such a feeling extend, the discredit of rejection will no longer act as a stimulus to the candidate to do his best to pass, and the rewards of good work must be distributed with even hand to the rejected and unrejected. With rejections at 40 and 50 per cent., it is clear, if the time for preparation be sufficient, there must be some imperfection either in the conduct of the examination or in the preparation of the candidates. After long experience of the examinations, both for the primary and final, at the College of Surgeons, I am inclined to exonerate the examiners. I can speak with even greater certainty as to the care and increased attention paid by teachers to students now as compared with the assistance given in former years. But, with increasing subjects required for examination, there has been no corresponding increase in the time allowed for acquiring them; and the consequence is seen in the augmented list of rejections.

If my memory serves me correctly, Mr. Savory advocated an extension of the period of study on a former occasion, and Mr. Heath followed with a suggestion that the best way of extending it would be to require of the student two full years of hospital work between the passing of the primary and his presenting himself at the final. This appears to me, now, to be the reform which is required. It would not check the brilliant student, but would extend the time for the less gifted or idle, and ensure for them a better acquaintance with that which is most requisite for the practice of their profession.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

R. CLEMENT LUCAS, B.S.

Finsbury Square, Sept. 6th, 1881.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.**—The following gentlemen passed their Examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, September 1st, 1881.

Altman, Asher Lyons, Kingston, Jamaica.  
Baker, William Braine, Banbury, Oxon.  
Rabbeth, Samuel, Putney, S.W.  
Thaine, Philip Thornton, 15, Montague Street, W.C.

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their Primary Professional Examination.

Aslanian, Bedros, London Hospital.  
Gaudy, Rastoni D., Grant Medical College.  
Jones, John Hughes, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

**BATH GENERAL OR MINERAL WATER HOSPITAL.**—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, board and apartments. Applications by September 15th.

**BETHLEM HOSPITAL.**—Two Resident Medical Students. Applications to A. M. Jeaffreson, Esq., Bridewell Hospital, Blackfriars, E.C., by October 1st.

**BURY ST. EDMUND'S FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' MEDICAL AID ASSOCIATION.**—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications to the Secretary by 14th September.

**CHELTEMHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.**—Dispenser. Salary, £80, with board and lodging. Testimonials, on or before 24th instant, to the Honorary Secretary.

**CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL,** 49, Great Ormond Street, W.C.—Clinical Assistant. Applications to Dr. Lee.

**GENERAL HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN**, Pendlebury, Manchester—Senior Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £100, with board and lodging. Applications to Chairman Medical Staff, on or before September 22nd.

**GLAMORGANSHIRE AND MONMOUTHSHIRE INFIRMARY**, Cardiff—Dispenser. Salary, £50. Applications to the Secretary by September 13th.

**LEICESTER PROVIDENT DISPENSARY**—Medical Officer. Applications to the Chairman of the Board by September 13th.

**LISBURN UNION**—Medical Officer for Knockadona Dispensary District. Salary, £100 per annum, with £15 yearly as Medical Officer of Health, registration, and vaccination fees. Election on the 21st instant.

**LIVERPOOL NORTHERN HOSPITAL**—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £70 per annum. Applications to the Chairman of the Committee by Sept. 12th.

**NATIONAL DENTAL HOSPITAL AND COLLEGE**, 149, Great Portland Street, W.—Dental Surgeon and Lecturer on Dental Surgery and Pathology. Applications by 15th September.

**NEWTON ABBOT UNION**—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator. Salary, £85 per annum. Applications by September 13th.

**NORTH-EASTERN HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN**, Hackney Road, E.—Surgeon. Applications to the Secretary by 26th September.

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM**, Morpeth—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, board and furnished apartments. Applications by September 13th.

**OWENS COLLEGE**, Manchester.—Demonstrator of Anatomy. Salary, £125 per annum. Applications, addressed to the Senate, by the 23rd September.

**ROYAL ISLE OF WIGHT INFIRMARY**—House-Surgeon and Secretary. Salary, £50 per annum. Applications to the Secretary by September 13th.

**ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL**, Paddington—Two Demonstrators of Anatomy. Salary, £70 and £50 per annum respectively. Applications to the Dean by September 13th.

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY**—House-Surgeon. Salary, £70. Applications to Secretary by September 13th.

**WOLVERHAMPTON AND STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL**—Matron and Superintendent of Nurses. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications to the Chairman of the Weekly Board by September 19th.

**WONFORD HOUSE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE**, Exeter—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications before September 14th, to Dr. Phillips, Medical Superintendent.

# MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

**DAVIDSON**, C., F.R.C.S.Ed., L.K.Q.C.P., appointed Certifying Factory Surgeon for the Central Metropolitan District, *vice* E. Head, M.D., resigned.

**DAVIES**, Hugh Walter, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P., appointed Visiting Surgeon to the Memorial Hospital, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

**FRASER**, F., M.B., C.M., L.R.C.P. & S.Ed., appointed Medical Officer to the Fifth District of the Sevenoaks Union.

**PHILLIPS**, John, B.A., M.B., M.R.C.S., appointed House-Physician to the Evelina Hospital for Sick Children, *vice* W. Hale White, M.D., resigned.

**THURSFIELD**, T. W., M.D., M.R.C.P., appointed Consulting Physician to the Leamington Provident Dispensary.

# 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.

**HARRIS**.—September 1st, at 1, Kenyon Terrace, Birkenhead, the wife of Alfred C. E. Harris, M.B., F.R.C.S.E., of a son.

## MARRIAGE.

**DAVIES**—**MORRIS**.—On September 6th, at St. Cuthbert's, Hebburn-on-Tyne, by the Rev. Wm. Hedley, Vicar, assisted by the Rev. J. Bee, Vicar of Christ Church, Jarrow, Hugh Walter Davies, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.E., etc., son of Hugh Davies, Esq., M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A., of London, to Mary Jane, only daughter of David Morris, Esq., Pelaw Main, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

## DEATH.

**GRIFFITH**, Richard Clewin, M.R.C.S., at 20, Gower Street, aged 90, on September 5th.

THE post of Lady Superintendent at the Consumption Hospital, Brompton, will be vacant during the coming autumn, owing to the resignation of Miss Cameron.

**GUY'S HOSPITAL**.—The following appointments for the next six months have been made:—House Physicians: G. J. Wilson, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; E. A. Starling, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Lond.); W. H. C. Newnham, B.A., M.R.C.S. House Surgeons: W. T. Crewe, F.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., L.S.A.; W. W. Pryan, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; H. G. Ashwell, M.R.C.S.

**ASSAULT ON A LUNATIC**.—The magistrates of Salisbury had before them, at the Guildhall, this week, Jane Case, a warder of the Fisherton Lunatic Asylum, who was summoned for assaulting Mary Turner, a patient at that institution. Mr. Whatman prosecuted for the Lunacy Commissioners. The evidence showed that on the morning of August 27th, about half-past five, Mrs. Turner, a very violent patient, woke the warder by throwing at her some gravel, which she had concealed for the purpose. Jane Case, the warder, immediately rose from her bed and struck the patient with a strap. The case was reported to the medical superintendent, Dr. Corbin Finch, who immediately discharged the

warder, and reported the affair to the Lunacy Commissioners. Mr. Whatman spoke of the necessity of preserving the strictest discipline in these large institutions; and defendant, who had rendered herself liable to a penalty of £20, and who pleaded that she did not know she ought to forbear striking a patient, was fined £1, and severely cautioned.

**VOLUNTEER SURGEONS-MAJOR**.—The following surgeons of Volunteer corps have been gazetted as honorary surgeons-major:—Dennis Adams, 1st Huntingdonshire Light Horse; Nicholas K. Marsh, 1st Lancashire Artillery Volunteers; Thomas Wright, 1st Nottinghamshire Rifle Volunteers; W. H. Folker, 2nd Staffordshire R.V.; John M. Ling, 1st Suffolk R.V.; John W. Harper, 6th Suffolk R.V.; Charles Hitchcock, M.D., 2nd Wiltshire R.V.; also G. Y. Heath, M.D., Northumberland Yeomanry Cavalry. Surgeon W. J. Marshall, M.D., 1st Renfrewshire R.V., has been granted the honorary rank of surgeon-major on resigning his commission.

**HEALTH OF FOREIGN CITIES**.—A table in the Registrar-General's last weekly return supplies the following facts, which may be accepted as trustworthy indications of the recent health and sanitary condition of various foreign and colonial cities. In the three principal Indian cities, the annual death-rate averaged 32.8 per 1,000; it was equal to 25.1 in Calcutta, 33.2 in Bombay, and 40.0 in Madras. Cholera caused 9 deaths in Calcutta and 8 in Bombay, and small-pox 14 in Madras. Fever fatality showed the usual excess in each of the three Indian cities. The usual return from Alexandria does not appear to have come to hand. According to the most recent weekly returns, the average annual death-rate in twenty European cities was equal to 30.4 per 1,000 of their aggregate population, against but 17.4, the average rate in twenty of the largest English towns last week. The rate in St. Petersburg was equal to 42.8, but showed a considerable decline upon that which prevailed in previous weeks; no fewer than 138 deaths were referred to diarrhoeal diseases, 38 to typhus and typhoid fevers, and 15 to diphtheria. In three other northern cities—Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Christiania—the death-rate did not average more than 19.5, the highest rate being 22.9 in Stockholm; diarrhoeal diseases caused 8 deaths in Copenhagen, and diphtheria 3 in Stockholm. The Paris death-rate was equal to 26.5 (against 16.2 in London), and the deaths included 72 from enteric fever, 19 from small-pox, and 44 from diphtheria and croup. The deaths in Brussels gave a rate of 23.6, and included 35 from diarrhoeal diseases. In the three principal Dutch cities—Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and the Hague—the death-rate averaged only 22.1, although it was equal to 30.9 in the Hague, where 3 fatal cases of scarlet fever were recorded. The Registrar-General's table includes eight German and Austrian cities, in which the death-rate averaged no less than 32.7 per 1,000; it ranged from 24.0 and 24.7 in Vienna and Hamburg, to 40.3 and 43.0 in Buda-Pesth and Breslau. Diarrhoeal diseases caused especial fatality in Berlin, Breslau, and Buda-Pesth; 11 fatal cases of small-pox occurred in Vienna, and in Buda-Pesth 8 deaths were referred both to small-pox and typhus. The death-rate was equal to 46.0 in Naples and 22.8 in Turin. Measles caused no fewer than 81 deaths in Naples, while the deaths in Turin included 5 from typhoid fever and 7 from diphtheria. In four of the principal American cities, the death-rate, calculated upon the enumerated population in 1880, averaged 32.1; it was equal to 27.0 in Philadelphia, 29.1 in Brooklyn, 32.5 in Baltimore, and 36.6 in New York. Diarrhoeal diseases showed especial fatality in New York and Brooklyn, and small-pox caused 12 deaths in Philadelphia.

**AMERICAN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY**.—At the last annual meeting, held in Newport, Rhode Island, July 27th and 28th, 1881, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year. *President*: Dr. H. D. Noyes of New York; *Vice-President*: Dr. William F. Norris of Philadelphia; *Secretary and Treasurer*: Dr. Richard H. Derby of New York; *Corresponding Secretary*: Dr. J. S. Prout of Brooklyn; *Committee on Publication*: Drs. E. G. Loring, D. B. St. John Roosa, and Richard H. Derby.

**EALING**.—With a death-rate of only 12.2 per 1,000, Ealing may fairly claim to be at least as healthy as any London suburb. This satisfactorily low rate was due chiefly to a decrease in the deaths from zymotics. Last year there were 29 deaths from this class, against 61 in 1878. The decrease in the number of deaths from diarrhoea, Mr. Patten attributes to the low temperature which prevailed during the summer months. Many minor defects were remedied during the year, and additional flushing contrivances were fixed to the sewers. Mr. Patten, whilst congratulating his authority upon the lowness of the death-rate, regrets the absence of any hospital accommodation, and speaks strongly of the necessity for the compulsory notification of infectious disease.

