

R. J. Purdon, A. A. G. Dickey, James Meek, Henry Massey, J. B. McKay. First Year, Robert English, J. S. Lytle, J. Morwood, T. Grainger, J. P. R. Jamieson, and Hugh Lewers (equal). Medicine: Second Year, T. Sinclair; First Year, S. Connor, T. G. Bell, T. Cromie, J. McMurray, W. Nelson, D. White. Surgery: T. Sinclair, J. McMurray, W. R. Hamilton, T. Cromie, J. J. Austin, D. White. Materia Medica: T. Frizell, B.A., W. Waddell, and J. J. Brownlee (equal); J. E. Heather and J. Meek (equal); I. Crawford.—*Summer Session.* Botany: Senior Division, D. Junk; Junior Division, J. S. Lytle, T. Grainger, W. J. Cameron, G. Elliott, and J. Morwood (equal). Experimental Physics: J. Morwood, T. Grainger, J. S. Lytle, J. P. R. Jamieson. Practical Chemistry: C. W. Reilly, C. W. J. Dunlop, J. E. Heather, S. H. Dunlop, W. A. Wheeler, I. Crawford, J. J. Brownlee. Medical Jurisprudence: T. G. Bell and D. White (equal); J. J. Austin, J. McMurray, W. Waddell, R. H. Mathews. Midwifery: T. G. Bell, J. McMurray, and W. Waddell (equal); J. S. Graham, J. J. Austin, and R. H. Mathews (equal).

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CORK.—Experimental Physics, Zoology, and Botany, First Year, Prizes, 1. P. Blackall; 2. M. J. Whitty. Practical Chemistry, Second Year, Prizes, 1. B. Hosford; 2. J. J. Lynch; 3. S. F. Freyer, W. Barter, R. E. Kelly, J. Musgrave (equal). Anatomy and Physiology, Second Year, Prizes, 1. W. Barter; 2. J. H. Swanton; 3. S. F. Freyer; Certificate, 4. F. G. Tooker. Third Year, Prizes, 1. T. J. Crowley; 2. W. E. Hadden; 3. F. E. Adams. Practical Anatomy, First Year, Prizes, 1. J. Kearney; 2. J. Brennan, P. G. Cotter (equal); 4. J. P. Magner; Certificate, 5. M. J. Whitty. Second Year, Prizes, 1. J. H. Swanton; 2. W. Barter; 3. J. Bolster; 4. S. F. Freyer; Certificate, 5. M. Connerly. Third Year, Prizes, 1. T. J. Crowley; 2. W. Hadden; 3. G. A. Rountree. Materia Medica, Second Year, Prizes, 1. B. Mangan, W. O'Keefe (equal); 3. R. E. Kelly; Certificates, 4. J. H. Swanton; 5. M. Connerly; 6. W. Barter; 7. W. J. Moynahan. Surgery, Third Year, Prizes, 1. T. J. Crowley; 2. W. E. Hadden; Certificate, 3. F. E. Adams. Midwifery, Third Year, Prizes, 1. T. J. Crowley, W. E. Hadden (equal); 3. F. E. Adams. Practice of Medicine, Fourth Year, Prizes, 1. H. H. R. Charles, D. Lynch (equal); 3. P. F. Grimes, D. M. Saunders (equal). Medical Jurisprudence, Fourth Year, Prizes, 1. H. H. R. Charles; 2. P. F. Grimes; 3. T. Dilworth; Certificates, 4. D. Lynch; 5. T. Cahill; 6. C. J. Holmes, D. M. Saunders (equal). Junior and Assistant Demonstrators H. H. R. Charles, E. J. H. Sullivan, W. E. Hadden, T. J. Crowley. Physiological Assistant, A. W. Sandford. Prosectors, J. H. Swanton, S. F. Freyer, W. Barter. Exhibition in Practical Medicine (divided), H. H. R. Charles, D. Lynch. Exhibition in Practical Surgery, H. H. R. Charles. Exhibition in Practical Midwifery, H. H. R. Charles.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, GALWAY.—Natural Philosophy: First Rank, W. Bartley; Second Rank, G. A. Waters, C. O'Doherty. Practical Chemistry: First Rank, W. H. Thompson, R. W. Henderson; Second Rank, C. J. Gaghan, J. McGlynn. Natural History: First Rank, V. F. Lennan; Second Rank, C. O'Doherty, W. Bartley. Practical Anatomy: Senior Class: First Rank, W. W. Gibson, W. J. Mitchell; Second Rank, P. O'Gorman and T. Farrelly (equal). Junior Class: First Rank, W. H. Thompson and R. W. Henderson (equal), W. Bartley; Second Rank, W. A. Wadsworth, R. W. Forman, P. B. White. Physiology: Senior Class: First Rank, P. O'Gorman; Second Rank, M. Kelly, M.A., T. Farrelly, and W. J. Mitchell (all equal). Junior Class: First Rank, R. W. Henderson; Second Rank, J. McGlynn and W. H. Thompson (equal), T. J. P. Hartigan, A. E. Morris. Practice of Medicine: Senior Class: First Rank, W. W. Gibson, J. G. Black; Second Rank, D. V. O'Connell. Junior Class: First Rank, W. J. Mitchell, W. M. Fisher. Practice of Surgery: Senior Class: First Rank, D. V. O'Connell. Junior Class: First Rank, W. J. Mitchell; Second Rank, P. O'Gorman; Certificate, T. Farrelly. Materia Medica: First Rank, W. H. Thompson, R. W. Henderson; Second Rank, J. McGlynn, W. A. Wadsworth, T. J. P. Hartigan. Medical Jurisprudence: First Rank, W. M. Fisher; Second Rank, D. V. O'Connell. Midwifery, First Rank, D. V. O'Connell, P. O'Gorman. Clinical Medicine and Surgery: W. W. Gibson, D. V. O'Connell.

ADELAIDE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL HOSPITALS, DUBLIN.—Hudson Scholarship (£30) and a Gold Medal, E. G. Hall. Hudson Prize (£10) and a Silver Medal, F. W. Elsner. Knagg's Prize (£5 ss.), J. L. Beeston. Junior Medical Prize (£3 ss.), C. W. Wynne. Junior Surgical Prize (£3 ss.), F. Drury.

NATIONAL DENTAL HOSPITAL AND COLLEGE.—*Winter Session, 1880-81.*—Ryder Medal: F. Rose. Dental Anatomy: Prize, F. Rose; Certificate, J. J. Bailey. Dental Mechanics: Prize, F. Rose; Certificate, J. J. Bailey. Dental Surgery: Prize, F. Rose; Certificate, W. J. Pidgeon. Metallurgy: Prize, A. H. Mountford; Certificate, M. Hughes. Operative Dental Surgery: Prize, T. Mansell; Certificates, J. J. Bailey and W. J. Pidgeon. Mechanical Work: Prize, J. J. Bailey. Deformities of the Mouth: Certificate, J. S. Spain. Dental Surgery Notes: Prize, W. J. Pidgeon.—*Summer Session.* Dental Mechanics: Prize, W. J. Pidgeon; Certificate, M. Hughes. Elements of Histology: Certificate, J. S. Spain.

DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON MEDICAL SCHOOL.—Saunders Scholarship, W. Hern. Mr. Buchanan's Prize, for Essay on "Causes, Symptoms, and Treatment of Neuralgia in connection with Diseases of the Teeth," J. S. Amorre.—*Winter Session, 1880-81.* Mechanical Dentistry: First Prize, W. Hern; Second Prize, J. O. Butcher and W. Harrison; Certificate, J. M. Ackland. Metallurgy: First Prize, J. J. Andrew; Second Prize, S. C. Buckland; Certificate, J. O. Butcher.—*Summer Session, 1881.* Dental Surgery and Pathology: First Prize, W. Hern; Second Prize, W. A. Turner; Certificates, A. Alex. Matthews and S. C. Buckland. Dental Anatomy and Physiology: First Prize, W. Hern; Second Prize, A. Alex. Matthews; Certificates, S. C. Buckland, W. Harrison, and J. M. Ackland. Student's Society Prize, for Paper on "The Dentition of the Mollusca," J. S. Amorre.

PRECOCIOUS MENSTRUATION.—Dr. B. F. Zeller, Beamsville, Ohio, reports (*New York Medical Record*) the facts of a case of precocious menstruation. At the time of the report the child was five months old, and began menstruating at the age of two months. It had menstruated three times at regular intervals of four weeks, the menses lasting from three to four days. The parents came to Dr. Zeller for advice, but the child was very healthy. He says that Bedford, in his work on *Obstetrics*, relates a case where the child was as young as twelve months—reported by Dr. Rowlett, of Kentucky—but does not seem to place much faith in it.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: EAST LONDON AND SOUTH ESSEX DISTRICT.—The first meeting of the fourth session of the above District will be held on Thursday, October 20th, at 8.30 p.m., at the New Town Hall, Hackney; Edwin Saunders, Esq., F.R.C.S. Eng., President of the Branch, will take the chair and deliver an Introductory Address. F. H. Daly, M.D., will read a paper on Contagious Pneumonia. Other communications will be made should time permit. The times and places of meeting for the ensuing session will have to be arranged.—FREDERICK WALLACE, Honorary Secretary, 96, Cazenove Road.—October 12th, 1881.

THAMES VALLEY BRANCH.—The next ordinary meeting of this Branch will be held at the Griffin Hotel, Kingston, on Thursday, November 3rd, 1881, at 6 p.m. Members intending to bring forward any communications are requested to give early notice to EDWARD L. FENN, M.D., Honorary Secretary, Richmond.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.—The autumnal meeting of this Branch will be held at the Railway Hotel, Taunton, on Thursday, November 3rd, at 4 p.m. The ordinary business and papers or cases will be taken before, and the question after, dinner. Dinner (5s. a head, exclusive of wine) at 5.30 punctually. The question as settled by the Council for the meeting to discuss is: The Advantages or otherwise of Vaginal Injections after Delivery. Members intending to make any communication, or to be present at the dinner, are requested to give notice to the Honorary Secretary.—W. M. KELLY, M.D., Honorary Secretary.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.—The first meeting of the session will be held at the Grand Pump Room Hotel, Bath, on Thursday, October 27th, at 4.15 p.m. This hour has been chosen to suit the convenience of country members especially; and it is hoped they will attend, and favour the meeting with their experiences. David Davies, President.—R. S. FOWLER, E. MARKHAM SKERRITT, Honorary Secretaries.—Bath, October 1st, 1881.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH.—A meeting of this Branch will be held at the Keswick Hotel, on Friday, the 28th instant; Dr. Grierson, Melrose, in the chair, at 1 p.m. Dr. Barnes, Carlisle, will introduce a discussion on the Treatment of Scarlet Fever. Dr. Knight, Keswick, will give a Biographical Sketch of the late Dr. Leitch of Keswick. J. K. Burt will read a paper on A Short Umbilical Cord as an Obstruction to Delivery.—J. SMITH, M.D., Dumfries; J. KENDALL BURT, M.B., Kendal, Honorary Secretaries.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.—The eighth annual general meeting of this Branch will be held at the Swan Hotel, Stafford, on Thursday, October 27th, 1881, at 3.30 p.m. An address will be delivered by the President, J. K. Wynne, Esq. Dinner at 5.15 p.m. Tickets (exclusive of wine), six shillings each.—VINCENT JACKSON, General Secretary.—Wolverhampton, October 9th, 1881.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT.—The next meeting of this District will take place at Canterbury, on Thursday, November 3rd; Mr. Holtum, F.R.C.S., in the chair. Members intending to read papers are requested to give immediate notice.—T. WHITEHEAD REID, Honorary Secretary.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.—The autumnal meeting will be held at the Red Lion Hotel, Pontefract, on Wednesday, November 2nd, at 3 p.m. Members intending to read papers are requested to communicate at once with ARTHUR JACKSON, Secretary.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: SOUTH-EAST HANTS DISTRICT.—An ordinary meeting will be held at the George Hotel, Portsmouth, on Wednesday, October 26th, 1881. The chair will be taken by the President, Dr. J. Manley, at 4.15 p.m. Agenda—Pathological Specimens: G. H. Snowden, Esq. Remarks on a Case in which some Stones and Broken Glass passed through the Alimentary Canal: Dr. J. Manley. Cerebral Syphilis: Deputy Inspector-General J. J. Haran, M.D., R.N. A New Ear-Protector for preventing the injurious effects of cold and noise: Dr. Ward Cousins. Subject proposed for discussion—The Treatment of Disease of the Hip-Joint. Gentlemen who are desirous of introducing Patients, exhibiting Pathological Specimens, or making communications, are requested to signify their intention at once to the Honorary Secretary. Dinner will be provided at 6.30 p.m. Charge 5s., exclusive of wine, etc.—J. WARD COUSINS, Honorary Secretary.

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH: AUTUMNAL MEETING.

THE autumnal meeting of this Branch was held at the residence of Dr. Lawford, Leighton Buzzard, on Tuesday, September 27th, at 2 p.m. Dr. Lawford kindly entertained the members, seventeen in number, to luncheon, at his house, at 1.15 p.m. Unfortunately, the President, H. C. Rogers, Esq., was not able to be present, his wife having died rather suddenly the previous evening. Dr. BUSZARD was, therefore, voted to the chair.

Consultation with Homœopaths.—The following resolution was proposed and carried: "That under no circumstances do we consider it right to meet in consultation any practitioner of homœopathy; and that this Branch very much regrets the remarks on the subject of homœopathy made by the readers of addresses at the last annual general meeting at Ryde."

Papers.—The following papers were read.

1. Dr. Bryan (Northampton): Notes on New Remedies. He exhibited about thirty various preparations; amongst others, iodoform, eserine, hypophosphites, croton-chloral, amyl-nitrite, solution of nitro-glycerine, chrysophanic acid, extract of malt, various preparations of pepsine, lacto-peptine, oleates, caffeine, citrate, muscarine, thymol,

adipisine, ethyl-bromide, damiana, hydrastine, ozokerine, etc., and gave descriptions of many of them, with their alleged virtues.

2. Mr. Veasey (Woburn): Notes of Cases of Intestinal Obstruction. A discussion followed.

3. Mr. Evans (Northampton): Remarks on some Common but Obstinate Affections, as Pertussis, Chorea, etc. Remarks were made by Dr. Bryan and others.

4. Mr. Hedges (Leighton Buzzard): A Case of Contracted Knee-Joint treated successfully by Subcutaneous Tenotomy. The subject was present.

A Vote of Condolence to Mr. H. Rogers, President, was passed.

New Member.—Mr. Thurnham of Yardley-Hastings was elected.

Treasurer's Report.—The report stated that the Branch now contained 105 members, and the balance in hand was £10 5s. Dr. Bryan stated that twenty-three subscriptions remained unpaid, and suggested that annual subscriptions should be paid within the first three months of the year, thereby saving much unnecessary trouble of writing. Prepayment was expected by the authorities of the Association.

* Coffee was then served, and the members separated at 4.45, having passed a vote of thanks to Dr. Lawford for his very kind hospitality and entertainment.

The Next Annual Meeting will be held at Northampton in June 1882, under the presidency of Mr. C. J. Evans.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH: AUTUMNAL MEETING.

THE autumnal meeting of this Branch was held at the Mermaid Hotel, Mumbles, on September 29th; present, PEARSON R. CRESSWELL, Esq., President, in the chair, and about twenty-five members.

New Member.—W. C. Evans, M.B. (Saundersfoot) was declared a member of the Association and Branch.

Medical Benevolent Fund.—Dr. SHEEN reported that a canvass of the members on a resolution unanimously passed at the previous meeting, to the effect that each member should subscribe five shillings a year, through the Branch, towards the Medical Benevolent Fund, had so far resulted in an almost unanimously favourable reply. It was resolved: "That it be an instruction to the Honorary Secretaries to direct the attention of the other Branches of the Association to what we are doing, and invite their co-operation."

Papers.—The following papers and cases were brought forward.

1. Mr. Evan Jones (Aberdare) read notes of a case of Compound Comminuted Fracture of the Lower Third of the Leg, treated antiseptically, with continued high temperature; no suppuration; rigors on the eleventh day, with vomiting and diarrhoea and acute pain in the stomach. On the fourteenth day, the patient vomited a piece of blue paper about four inches square, since which there had been no vomiting nor diarrhoea; but the temperature had ranged from 101° to 103°. The case was still under treatment. It was suggested, in discussion, that the man might have swallowed some irritant wrapped in the paper which he vomited.

2. Dr. T. D. Griffith (Swansea) read notes of a case of Acute Ascending Paralysis in a Child aged five, ending in death on the sixth day. The tendency of the discussion was to consider it a case of acute myelitis.

3. Dr. Griffiths also showed a specimen of Dilatation of the Arch of the Aorta, with degeneration and sudden death, accompanied by notes of the case.

4. Mr. D. Arthur Davies, M.B. (Swansea) showed an interesting specimen of Apoplexy of the Ovary, and gave notes of the case.

5. Mr. D. J. Williams (Llanelli) read notes of cases of Empyema treated by Aspiration.

6. Mr. William Morgan (Clydach) related a case of Right Scrotal Hernia, in which the circumference of the tumour was four inches and a half. The hernia was reduced until it measured fifteen inches, since which time the patient had not suffered from symptoms of obstruction. The patient was shown.

7. Mr. J. Milward (Cardiff) read a paper on Ptomaines, or Substances derived from Dead Bodies.

Dinner.—The members afterwards dined together at the Mermaid Hotel.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH: QUARTERLY MEETING.

THE quarterly meeting was held at the Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter, on Wednesday, October 5th; Mr. A. J. CUMMING, Consulting Surgeon to the Hospital, Vice-President, in the chair. Twenty-one members were present.

New Member.—H. G. Deverell, M.B., Redruth, was elected a member of the Branch.

By-law 12.—A letter from Dr. Milner Fothergill, requesting the attention of the members to an amendment to By-law 12, which he proposed to move at the next annual meeting of the Association, having been read, it was resolved that Dr. Fothergill's letter be referred to the Council for consideration.

Communications.—The following were read.

1. Dr. J. Thompson (Bideford) read notes of a case of Gangræna Senilis ending in natural amputation, the patient still surviving. The specimen was shown.

2. Surgeon-Major O'Brien, A.M.D., read a paper on a case of Pleuritis with Effusion.

3. Mr. F. A. Gray (Ottery St. Mary) read notes of a case of Extra-uterine Pregnancy; and showed the specimen.

4. Dr. Davy (Exeter) read a paper on Empyema in Children.

5. Mr. L. H. Tosswill (Exeter) showed a patient in whom he had successfully treated a severe Ectropion, the result of a burn, by the transplantation of skin from the arm. The case was a very interesting one, and attracted much attention.

6. Mr. J. D. Harris (Exeter) read notes on a recent case of Lithotomy.

7. Mr. A. Blomfield (Exeter) and Mr. J. Harris (Exeter) showed specimens under the microscope of Colloid Cancer, Cirrhosis, Cancer, and Miliary Tubercle of the Liver.

8. Mr. J. Bankart (Exeter) showed an interesting case of Primary Venereal Sore.

9. Mr. A. J. Cumming (Exeter) communicated a case of Stone in the Bladder. The patient had been treated for bladder-disease. At the necropsy, a large stone was found in the bladder, the nucleus of which was a pin. This pin had evidently lodged in the vermiform appendage, set up inflammatory adhesion between the vermiform appendage and the bladder, ending in a fistulous communication through which the pin had passed, and acted as the nucleus of a stone, and enabled worms to crawl into the bladder.

10. Dr. Stephenson (Bradninch) read a paper on Vaccination Reform.

NORTH WALES BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

The thirty-second annual meeting of this Branch was held at the Pwll-y-crochon Hotel, Colwyn Bay, on Thursday, September 22nd, under the presidency of Dr. SAMUEL GRIFFITH, of Portmadoc. Twenty-eight members with nine guests attended the meeting.

New Members.—Two gentlemen were elected members of the Association and of the Branch, and one member of the Association was affiliated.

Report of Council.—The report of the District Council showed that at the close of the past session there were seventy-nine members of the Branch, who were all active members; and that the work of the past and previous sessions had received a marked stimulus by arranging and advertising discussions, which were opened by prominent members of the profession. A resolution was proposed by the Council and unanimously accepted by the meeting, to the effect that consultations between homœopaths and allopaths could in no way be justified, and that such consultations could not be attended by any benefit to a patient under treatment.

President-elect; Places of Meeting.—Dr. John Roberts, of Chester, was chosen President-elect for 1882-3; Rhyl as the place for the next annual meeting; and Portmadoc for the next intermediate meeting.

Members of Council.—The following were elected members of the Branch Council:—Mr. R. A. Prichard, Conway; Dr. A. E. Turnour, Denbigh; Mr. W. T. Girdlestone, Rhyl; Dr. E. J. Lloyd, Bangor; Mr. James Williams, Holywell; Dr. William Williams, Mold. The following were elected representatives of the Branch in the General Council of the Association:—Mr. Richards, Bangor; Mr. Hunter Hughes, Pwllheli; Mr. Roberts, Portmadoc; Dr. J. E. Jones, Dolgelly. Mr. Davis Hughes (Menai Bridge) was re-elected to the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the Association.

Secretary and Treasurer.—Mr. Lloyd Roberts (Denbigh) and Mr. Wm. Williams (Denbigh) were respectively re-elected honorary secretary and honorary treasurer of the Branch; and Dr. Eytton Jones (Wrexham) was elected an honorary secretary for the special purpose of attending the meetings of the Council of the Association.

Dr. EYTON JONES withdrew the proposal, of which he had previously given notice, to form a new Branch of the Association at Chester.

Vivisection.—The following resolutions on vivisection were unanimously carried:—"That this meeting of the members of the North Wales Branch of the British Medical Association records its conviction that experiments on living animals have proved of immense benefit in the prevention and treatment of disease, both in mankind and animals, and expresses its desire that opportunities for their more general

adoption by competent scientific persons should be afforded by the Legislature, and that the existing restrictions should be removed or greatly relaxed." "That copies of the above be sent to all members of the Legislature connected with North Wales."

President's Address.—The PRESIDENT delivered an inaugural address on Medical Men in their Respective Relations. He said, as to their relation to each other, it was infinitely better than it had ever been before. Still, there was more to be done, especially in the rural districts. Was it not too true that too often the older practitioner looked upon a new comer as an interloper, was jealous of his labours and any success to which he might attain, misconstrued his good deeds, and ascribed bad motives to them? It was equally true that often a new comer, or perhaps the junior practitioner of a neighbourhood, was over-sensitive as to the dealings of his senior towards him, was impatient and dissatisfied with his own progress, and complained that his quota of reward and success was unduly withheld from him, and in very many cases attributed this to some improper influence or artful trickery on the part of his older brethren. Such feelings ought not to exist. Fair competition was both desirable and indispensable, both for the practitioner and for the patient. But competition in the profession should not breed jealousy, and one of their chief aims should be the extermination of professional jealousy. For this purpose nothing could be so efficient as bringing them into closer and more constant contact with each other. Much of the bitterness among medical men was due entirely to an imperfect knowledge of each other, and this must be removed by frequent consultations carried out loyally, and more frequent assemblings of the members of the association. He believed the time would come when consultations would be a matter of daily occurrence. Consultations were, however, capable of doing grievous harm; the consultant did not treat the ordinary attendant with courtesy and deference. But, when consultations were loyally carried out, grateful recollections of the consultant were left on the mind of the regular attendant, of the kind and considerate way in which he had acted towards him, of the gracious manner in which he sustained him in the confidence of his patient, and of the delicate manner in which he insisted that whatever he advised was the result of their joint consideration and concurrence. Meetings of such a kind, in such a spirit, must of necessity produce beneficial effects. Such meetings as the present one further improved the relations between medical men, as affording opportunities for uniting in friendly intercourse, exchanging the results of professional labour, vanquished jealousy, and engendered a spirit of brotherly feeling. In North Wales there were hundreds of medical men, but few of whom gathered at the meetings of the Branch to give each other the heartfelt "Godspeed" which they all so specially required. Surely one day might be spared for the interchange of ideas and the acquisition of goodwill, peace, and charity towards each other. As regarded the relation of medical men to their patients, it was their duty to gain their esteem and confidence. This was achieved by one of two methods. On the one hand, there was the practitioner whose claims to the confidence of his patients were based more on his own assertions than on any real knowledge of his profession. On the other hand, there was the conscientious, scientific, and practical practitioner, who, by hard and honest work, gained the esteem and confidence of his patients; who gleaned information from every source, was acquainted with the most recent advances in his profession, but never assumed to medical infallibility. That was the type all should endeavour to follow.

Communications.—The following papers were read.

1. William Roberts, M.D., F.R.S. (Manchester): Micro-organisms in the Urine.
2. Dr. Eyton Jones (Wrexham): Aneurysm of the Aorta.
3. Mr. Roberts (Festiniog): An Enormous Kidney (weighing 21 ounces) which was found filled with Calculi.
4. Mr. Roberts (Portmadoc): A Case of very Manifest Extra-Uterine Foetation. The patient was exhibited.
5. Mr. J. Richards (Bangor): Broken Catheter in the Bladder. He also exhibited new surgical instruments.
6. Dr. Richard Williams (Liverpool): Trichiasis and Entropion. He detailed the principles of his operation on the mucous membrane to obtain cure, and exhibited two patients.
7. Mr. Lawson Tait (Birmingham): The Diagnosis and Treatment of Chronic Inflammation of the Ovary.
8. Mr. Jones Morris (Portmadoc): Epithelioma of the Uterus.

Dinner.—In the evening, forty-two members and guests sat down to a sumptuous *à la Russe* dinner, during which the Colwyn Bay String Band discoursed sweet music, and after which the usual loyal and Association toasts were duly honoured.

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH: AUTUMNAL MEETING.

The autumnal meeting was held at the Town Hall, Southwold, on Friday, September 30th; CHARLES PALMER, Esq. (President) in the Chair.

Discussion on Syphilis.—The PRESIDENT opened a discussion upon Syphilis with an elaborate paper upon its Effects upon the Civil Population of Great Yarmouth, and an Inquiry into the Working of the Contagious Diseases Prevention Act. Eventually, it was unanimously resolved:

1. "That, in the opinion of the meeting, it is desirable that steps should be taken at once to investigate thoroughly the subject of syphilis, and its effects upon the civil population of Great Britain, and more particularly of the great maritime and mercantile centres."

2. "That the British Medical Association, representing so large a body of the guardians of the public health, is at the present time the only organisation capable of carrying out this investigation thoroughly and successfully."

3. "That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the President and members of the Committee of Council of the Association, with a request that they would take into consideration the expediency of forming a central Committee of Investigation, with power to appoint local committees in such places as they may think desirable; such sub-committees to consist, not only of members of the Association, but of all medical men living in the place or neighbourhood who are willing to assist in the work; to lay down the lines upon which these sub-committees are to work, and to receive and digest their reports."

Papers.—The following papers were also read.

Mr. L. E. Amyot, F.R.C.S. (Diss): On Special Organisms and their Teachings.

H. J. Benham, M.D. (Ipswich): The Diagnosis and Treatment of Intestinal Obstruction.

W. M. Crowfoot, M.B. (Beccles): On a Specimen of Sarcomatous Tumour of the Thorax.

Peter Eade, M.D. (Norwich): Case of Spinal Hæmorrhage.

W. A. Elliston, M.D. (Ipswich): On a Case of Traumatic Abscess of the Brain.

The members, about thirty in number, adjourned to a *dejeuner* at the Swan Hotel, at 4 P.M.

VICTORIA BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

The second annual meeting of the Victoria Branch of the British Medical Association took place on Friday evening, July 15th, in the hall of the Royal Society, Melbourne. Dr. CUTTS, the President for the past year, occupied the chair; and there was a large attendance of members. Amongst the correspondence submitted was a letter announcing the formation of a sub-branch at Ballarat.

Report of Council.—Dr. LOUIS HENRY, the Honorary Secretary, read the report of the Council. It congratulated the members on the progress of the Branch and the success that had throughout attended it. The number of members had increased from sixty-two to eighty-five, and the reports received from time to time from the other Branches in the sister colonies were equally reassuring. The establishment of a journal for the combined Australasian Branches, of which mention was made in the last report, had been finally decided on; and negotiations had been carried on between this Branch, the New South Wales, and the South Australian Branches, for some time. The final arrangements were all but complete, and the first number of the *Australasian Medical Gazette* might be expected to appear in a few weeks. The Council had appointed Drs. Neild and Jamieson as the local editors, and arrangements had been made to secure contributors from all parts of Australasia. The *Australasian Medical Gazette* would appear monthly, resembling in form, size, and contents, the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* and the *Lancet*. The yearly subscription to members would be 12s. Arrangements had been made so that contributors might demand a number of printed copies of their papers without extra charge. The Branches had further arranged with the publishers that they should incur no responsibility whatever in connection with the journal. The Council believed that more satisfactory arrangements would be shortly entered into with the home Association, so that extra copies of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* might always be on hand to supply new members of the Branch. The Council had taken up the question of the adulteration of milk and other food, in order to overcome the difficulty of proceeding to obtain a conviction against the sellers of adulterated food. The Council had further moved, with success, to prevent the indiscriminate admission of persons who, when they had met with an accident, sought admission to the public hospitals. A com-

munication from the secretary of the Melbourne Hospital contained a promise that the visiting committee of the Melbourne Hospital would give this matter every consideration; and a similar letter from the chief commissioner of police informed the Branch that, in accordance with the request of the Council, the police had been instructed to inquire of persons who had met with an accident whether they preferred being taken to their own homes or to the hospital. The antivaccination movement had been under consideration, and preparations had been made to take steps to oppose this movement. Attention had also been drawn to the inadequate remuneration of professional experts attending the supreme courts. By-laws had been passed, providing that at the end of the year three members of Council should retire, who should not be eligible for re-election; and that it should be in the power of the Branch, on the recommendation of the Council, to elect honorary members, who need not be necessarily members of the medical profession, on a vote of three-fourths. The subjects of public health and sanitation had received consideration; and, in consequence of the uneasiness existing in the public mind in reference to the impurities of the Yan Yean water, a subcommittee had been appointed for the purpose of collecting information in all cases of disease which might be considered due to the drinking-water. The Council had pleasure in reporting the formation of a subbranch in Ballarat. The occasion of Mr. Rudall's departure for Europe was made use of to present that gentleman with an address, as an expression of the respect and admiration for his scientific attainments. The Council regretted to record the loss of Dr. Day, to whose widow a letter was forwarded, expressing the deep respect entertained by the Association for the memory of her late husband. There had been four ordinary meetings during the year, and twelve papers read. A large number of exhibits were demonstrated at each meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was submitted. It showed receipts amounting to £109 6s. 1d., and expenses to £98 16s. 9d., leaving a balance in hand of £10 9s. 4d.

These reports were adopted without discussion.

Officers and Council.—The election of officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with, the following being the result:—*President:* J. E. Neild, M.D. *Vice-President:* J. Jamieson, M.D. *Treasurer:* W. H. Cutts, M.D. *Honorary Secretary:* L. Henry, M.D. *Ordinary Members of Council:* G. R. W. Adam, M.D.; B. Fyffe, Esq.; W. Gillbee, Esq.; G. Graham, M.D.; A. Morrison, Esq.; A. Shields, M.D. *Auditors:* Dr. Haig and Mr. W. Barker.

Address of Retiring President.—The newly elected President, Dr. NEILD, having taken the chair, the retiring President, Dr. CUTTS, delivered an address. He congratulated the members of the Branch on its prosperity, and on the extension of professional intercourse in Australia through the formation of the Victoria and other Branches. Such a federation would bring the profession throughout Australia closer together in sympathy, interest, and action. It would be the medium for the discussion of local professional matters proper to the several colonies, and such as had a common interest for the whole. The field was large, extending from Queensland to New Zealand; and it would be the business of the Association to cultivate it; to bring together, through its Branches and journal, the observations and experience of this vast area, with its various conditions of climate and vegetation, that would otherwise be scattered and fragmentary, so as to make them the common property of the profession. He proceeded to speak at length of hospital reform, and of the best means of dealing with the sick poor. He recommended strongly the cultivation of provident habits, and advised that every poor man in the colony should join a sick club, so as to entitle him to medical relief. This should be done by means of free dispensaries, under the management of a committee; the patients being admitted after an investigation of their cases by a relieving officer, and not by the recommendations of subscribers. Speaking of public education, he said that a Bill had passed making changes in the University, and opening it to women, who were, however, still excluded from the medical school. He saw no objection to women being attended in labour, as was already often done, by others of their own sex; but he considered it unadvisable that women should become members of the medical profession. Having alluded to proposed changes in the system of education and examination, and to the state of sanitary legislation in Victoria, he concluded with offering a caution against the tendency of scientific thought in the direction of materialism.

Vote of Thanks.—On the motion of Mr. R. ROBERTSON, seconded by Mr. GILLBEE, a vote of thanks was given to the retiring President for his address, and for the great interest he had shown in the Association during the year of his presidency.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DR. RUSSELL REYNOLDS AND SPECIALISM.

SIR,—When Royal and consulting physicians assume oratorical functions, and, as president of one society or another, deliver themselves to the profession in set orations, their utterances are naturally read with much attention, and have an effect which is due in part to whatever intrinsic merit they may possess, and in part to the dignities and authorities with which the speaker has been, by the favour of his Sovereign and the grace of his profession, publicly invested. Such an address as you published last week from the consulting physician to the University College Hospital, and a physician to the Royal household, will naturally, therefore, be read by many thousands of others among your readers, who, like myself, would attach less importance to the words of a common man. Specialism is a subject which has had the unhappy privilege of exciting so many unwise, shallow, and prejudiced declamations, that such a heading is not now-a-days very promising or attractive; but after the excellent address of Sir James Paget, and the authoritative example unanimously set by the Executive Committee of the International Congress in formally recognising all the known specialties, it seemed improbable that any responsible person would again approach the subject in the spirit in which Dr. Reynolds has treated it. I am, as you see, a specialist, and I may therefore be unduly sensitive. The remarks which, with your permission, I think I may claim to make shall therefore be limited, not to a reply to the almost personal insults which Dr. Reynolds seems to level at members of the profession whom he as nearly as possible identifies by name, but to the endeavour to extract from this very interesting lecture some one or two out of the very contradictory meanings which he seems to suggest, and to compare the wiser thoughts of the speaker himself with his less measured and thoughtful periods of vituperation. I happen to be particularly interested in the obstetrical specialty, and the analyses of Dr. Reynolds's observations on this subject leave us in such a mood of amazement that I must ask to be allowed to point out some things in his address which, it seems to me, he will do well to explain or clear up. I pass over the generally abusive statement that "physicians have coined names for trifling maladies—if they have not invented them"—and have "set fashions of disease," although he points these observations further on by remarking that "some years ago *ulceratio uteri* was the fashion, and applications of various sorts were made two and three times a week in order to cure a malady which some eminent men, in special practice too, said did not exist." "The disease," he says, "has died a natural death, or has met with a violent end." Dr. Reynolds generally observes that physicians "have treated or maltreated their patients by endless examinations, speculations, applications, and the like, and this sometimes for months, sometimes for years; and then, when by some so-called accident the patient has been removed from their care, she has become quite well, and then there has been no more need for caustic, speculum, or pessary." Such a stigma, generally hurled at the heads of physicians, and particularly, it is presumed, at obstetric physicians, refutes itself. It is true that there was once great ignorance on the subject of local affections of the womb, and that when Dr. Henry Bennet first introduced the speculum to this country, and showed the untold benefits which were to be derived from its use, and the enormous value of local applications, that he was met with some of the ungenerous abuse which Dr. Russell Reynolds now still more ingeniously disentombs, in the face of the fact that in introducing the speculum, and in teaching the British physicians the value of local treatment of uterine disorders, the greatest boon was conferred upon womenkind which this gentleman has seen, and an advance made in the treatment of uterine disease at least contemporaneous with the advance made by the introduction of the stethoscope in the treatment of thoracic disease; and in spite of the vile insinuation here made that those are best off whom accident removes from treatment. It is perfectly well known, what Dr. Reynolds will hardly deny, that to discard the use of the speculum in the treatment of uterine disease would be to go back to the dark ages of treatment. This, however, is, it seems, not a particular and special fault in the present day. Now, according to Dr. Reynolds, "there is scarcely any woman living whose uterus is where it ought to be. It is anteverted or retroverted, or verted this way or that way, so that all kinds of contrivances have to be adjusted or readjusted in order to cure backache, vesical irritation, albuminuria, hysteria, and I know not what besides." He describes in the following words the consulting-rooms of "some doctors" as being "soothed by a 'dim (can I say?) religious light' into which the patients are ushered, and in the dim silence of which all this kind of 'treatment' goes on; and not only so, but in their own homes, patients are sometimes treated

etc., away into a trapped pipe-drain. Round the sides of the table is a copper tube perforated by small holes, which, on the principle of Smeaton's Imperial Needle Bath, admits of a fine spray of water which may be mixed with carbolic acid, or other disinfectant, playing on the corpse at the head of the table; there is a tap which, on turning, causes the water to flow, and which communicates with the cistern situated on the roof of the mortuary. The advantages of this arrangement are so obvious that we confidently recommend its adoption by all sanitary authorities engaged in constructing mortuaries; whilst the plan is so simple and inexpensive that it may readily be adapted to existing houses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SIR,—Can you tell me the names of any sanitary authorities who pay medical men for sending notice of the occurrence of infectious disease amongst their private patients to the local medical officer of health, and also the amounts of the fees the respective authorities pay for each certificate? Do any sanitary authorities request and pay for these certificates, without having a local Act of Parliament justifying them in doing these things?

I should be glad to have your opinion as to whether there would be any impropriety in divulging, for reward or otherwise, to a sanitary authority the existence of infectious disease in a private patient, when, owing to there being no local (or general) Act, one would be under no legal obligation to do so; and whether one would not be committing a breach of confidence in sending notice of disease in a private house to a public authority or anyone else, without being compelled by law; for I suppose there is no general legal obligation at present.

I should be glad of a reply in your next issue, if possible.—I am, etc.,

A MEMBER.

*** There are a number of places in various parts of the country, such as Coventry, Evesham, and several of the districts in the East Surrey (Mr. E. L. Jacob's) combination, where arrangements have been made by the sanitary authorities with local medical men for voluntary information as to the existence of infectious disease. Usually, half-a-crown is paid for each such notification. We do not think there would be any impropriety in the medical man giving such information to the sanitary authority; but that, on the contrary, it would be a distinct gain to the public health. There is no general legal obligation on the subject at present, but public opinion tends strongly in the direction of imposing such obligation. It would in such cases, however, be improper, we think, to give any such information without the knowledge of the patient.

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their Examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, October 15th, 1881.

Deane, Herbert Edward, Sutherland Gardens, St. Peter's Park.
Donald, James, St. Leonard's Place, Kingston.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:—

- ABBEELEIX UNION.**—Medical Officer for the Workhouse and Fever Hospital. Salary, £80 per annum. Election will take place on the 25th inst.
- BIRMINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARIES.**—Five Resident Surgeons. Salary, £150 per annum. Applications by November 16th.
- BRISTOL GENERAL HOSPITAL.**—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications to the Clerk by November 5th.
- DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON.**—Assistant Dental Surgeon. Applications to the Honorary Secretary by November 14th.
- DISPENSARY OF THE GENERAL HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN,** Gartside Street, Manchester.—Visiting and Medical Officer. Salary, £180 per annum. Applications by October 29th.
- EASTERN DISPENSARY,** Bath.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with furnished apartments, coal, gas, and domestic attendants. Applications to Francis Savage, Esq., by November 1st.
- FRENCH HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY,** Leicester Square.—Resident Medical Officer. Applications to Assistant Secretary.
- GLASGOW MATERNITY HOSPITAL.**—Assistant Obstetric Physician. Applications by November 4th.
- ISLE OF WIGHT UNION.**—Medical Officer. Salary, £80 per annum. Applications to Clerk's Office, Newport, by 10th November.
- RATHDRUM UNION.**—Medical Officer for Annamore Dispensary District. Salary, £120 per annum, exclusive of sanitary, registration, and vaccination fees. Election on the 22nd instant.
- RICHMOND HOSPITAL,** Surrey.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum. Applications by October 29th.
- ROYAL ALBERT EDWARD INFIRMARY,** Wigan.—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with apartments and rations. Applications to the Secretary by the 27th instant.
- ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.**—Assistant Physician. Applications in writing to A. Tritton by November 14th.
- WORKHOUSE AND INFIRMARY,** St. John's Road, Upper Holloway.—Resident Assistant Medical Officer. Applications by November 1st.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

BULTEEL, Marcus H., M.R.C.S.L., appointed Provident Dispensary Surgeon to the Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport.

GODLEE, R. J., F.R.C.S., appointed Surgeon to the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, E.

HAWKINS, A. F., M.R.C.S., appointed Second Casualty Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.

LEES, F. A., M.R.C.S., appointed Medical Officer to the Warrington Amalgamated Friendly Societies, *vice* J. Huson-More, L.R.C.P., resigned.

MURPHY, James, B.A., M.D., appointed Consulting-Surgeon to the Monkwearmouth and Southwick Dispensary.

PAUL, E. W., M.K.Q.C.P.I., appointed Surgeon to the Provident Dispensary of the Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport.

ROLSTON, J. R., M.R.C.S.E., appointed Provident Dispensary Surgeon to the Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport.

RUMALLS, H. Boyle, appointed Assistant Medical Officer for the Leavesden Asylum, *vice* J. W. Stirling Christie, resigned.

WILLIAMS, W. Michael, M.B., appointed Medical Officer to the Penmachno Slate Quarries, near Bettws-y-coed, *vice* W. H. Price, M.R.C.S., 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.

WICKHAM.—On the 14th instant, at the Hermitage, Rufford, Ormskirk, the wife of Henry Wickham, M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.L., of a son.

DEATH.

BARNARDO.—On the 17th instant, at Birkdale Park, Southport, Isabelle Florence, beloved wife of Dr. F. A. Ernest Barnardo, aged 26 years.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—Mr. A. R. S. Anderson has obtained the scholarship in natural science, tenable for three years: £75 first year, £50 second year, and £25 third year; and Mr. W. Williams that of £60 first year, £25 second year, and £15 third year.

MESSRS. ROBERT BOYLE & SON have recently applied their complete system of ventilation and sanitation to the Brompton Oratory, South Kensington, which has proved highly successful, the rev. fathers having presented Messrs. Boyle with a valuable testimonial to that effect. The new extension to the Devonshire Hospital, Buxton, opened last week by His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, is also fitted throughout with Messrs. Boyle's Air Pump Ventilators, which are at present being applied for the ventilation of Lambeth Infirmary.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN AT BRISTOL.—Designs for the erection of a children's hospital at Bristol were invited by advertisement in the local papers, and a number of architects responded. After consideration of the designs by the committee and medical staff, those prepared by Mr. Robert Curwin, of London and Liverpool, were adopted. The hospital is intended to accommodate seventy-seven patients.

SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN.—The quarterly court of directors of this Society was held on Wednesday, October 12th, in the rooms of the Medical and Chirurgical Society. The chair was taken by the President, Sir George Burrows, Bart. The court was unusually well attended. The deaths of two of the oldest members of the Society—Dr. Billing, V.P., and Mr. R. C. Griffiths—were announced. Two new members were elected. The deaths of two widows were reported. One had been in receipt of grants since 1833, receiving for herself and children the large sum of £2,272, the husband having been a member for only nine years, and having paid but eighteen guineas. Applications were read from sixty widows, nine children, and three recipients from the Copeland Fund; and a sum of £1,250 10s. was recommended to be paid them at the next court. The expenses of the quarter were £37 15s. The treasurer reporting favourably of the state of the funds, the directors resolved to give the same present this Christmas as last to the widows and orphans receiving grants. An application was approved of from one widow, and a grant of £30 was given to an orphan towards his self-maintenance.

GUILD OF ST. LUKE.—The seventeenth anniversary of this Society was held on Tuesday last. The members assembled for Communion at All Saints', Margaret Street, at 8 A.M., after which they were entertained to breakfast by the Provost. At the annual meeting, Dr. Alfred Meadows was elected provost; Mr. George Cowell, vice-provost; Dr. Wm. Holman, treasurer; and Mr. Morton Smale, secretary. The Guild has during the year sent to the Bishop of Bombay £100 for the support of a medical missionary in his diocese, and hope as time goes on to increase their work in that direction. In the evening a service was held in St. Paul's Cathedral, and an admirable sermon preached by the Rev. H. M. Villiers, on the Mystery of Suffering, from the text St. John v, verses 3 and 4. The Guild is anxious that students and practitioners, members of the Church of England, should join its ranks; it already numbers 180 members. Mr. A. J. Landon, who fell

at Majuba Hill while in the exercise of his duty of healing, was a member of the Guild. His death, the only one during the year, was touchingly referred to by the Provost at the meeting. Any of the officers of the Guild will be glad to give information as to the objects and work of the Society.

PRESENTATION TO DR. E. HOGGAN.—Dr. E. Hoggan's removal from Thornhill, where he has been in practice for the last fourteen years, to Liverpool, was recently the occasion of a farewell dinner, given by his many and warmly-attached friends in Nithsdale, desirous of showing him some substantial token of their regard. A numerous company was present, and the healths of Dr. and Mrs. Hoggan were enthusiastically honoured. The testimonial consisted of a purse and 200 sovereigns, a salver of solid silver, and a gold bracelet presented to Mrs. Hoggan. The salver, which was chased and of beautiful design, bore the following inscription: "Presented to Edward Hoggan, Esquire, M.D., along with a purse of two hundred sovereigns, by his friends in Nithsdale, as a mark of esteem for his personal character, and as a recognition of the valuable professional and other services rendered by him to the district. Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, 16th September, 1881."

PUBLIC HEALTH.—The annual rate of mortality last week, being the forty-first week of the year, in twenty of the largest English towns, averaged 20.5 per 1,000 of their aggregate population. The rates of mortality in the several towns were as follow: Leicester 14, Bristol 15, Portsmouth 16, Norwich 16, Plymouth 16, Leeds 17, Sheffield 17, Newcastle-on-Tyne 19, Salford 19, London 19, Oldham 20, Sunderland 20, Bradford 21, Brighton 21, Wolverhampton 21, Manchester 21, Birmingham 22, Nottingham 25, Hull 26, and Liverpool 27. Scarlet fever showed the largest proportional fatality in Hull, Nottingham, Sunderland, and Leicester; in Hull, no fewer than 33 fatal cases of this disease were recorded, making 286 that have occurred since the beginning of July. The 29 deaths from diphtheria in the twenty towns included 13 in London, 5 in Portsmouth, and 5 in Birmingham. The highest death-rate from fever occurred in Oldham and Salford. The fatality both of measles and whooping-cough was below the average. Small-pox caused 25 more deaths in London and its outer ring of suburban districts, and one in Bradford; no fatal case of this disease was recorded in any of the eighteen other large provincial towns. In London, 2,550 births and 1,460 deaths were registered. The deaths exceeded the average by 11. The annual death-rate from all causes, which had been equal to 16.6 and 18.6 per 1,000 in the two preceding weeks, further rose last week to 19.9. During the thirteen weeks which ended on the 1st instant, the metropolitan death-rate averaged 20.5 per 1,000, against 20.3 in the corresponding periods of the five years 1876-80. The 1,460 deaths included 22 from small-pox, 33 from measles, 66 from scarlet fever, 13 from diphtheria, 32 from whooping-cough, 33 from enteric fever, 3 from ill-defined forms of continued fever, 26 from diarrhoea, and 3 from dysentery; thus, 231 deaths were referred to these diseases, being 4 below the average. The deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs, which had steadily increased from 115 to 227 in the six preceding weeks, further rose to 279 last week, and exceeded the average by 25; 172 were attributed to bronchitis and 77 to pneumonia. Different forms of violence caused 40 deaths; 33 were the result of negligence or accident, among which were 18 from fractures and contusions, 3 from burns and scalds, 2 from drowning, and 6 of infants under one year of age from suffocation. At Greenwich, the mean temperature of the air was 49.0°, and 2.8° below the average. The mean degree of humidity of the air was 84, complete saturation being represented by 100. The general direction of the wind was W.S.W., and the horizontal movement of the air averaged 19.5 miles per hour, which was 9.1 above the average in the corresponding week of sixteen years. Rain fell on five days of the week, to the aggregate amount of 0.51 of an inch. The duration of registered bright sunshine in the week was equal to 19 per cent. of its possible duration. The recorded amount of ozone showed an excess on Tuesday and Friday, whereas it was below the average on each of the other days of the week.

HEALTH OF FOREIGN CITIES.—Trustworthy indications of the recent health and sanitary condition of various foreign and colonial cities are afforded by the following facts and rates of mortality, derived from a table in the Registrar-General's last weekly return. In the three principal Indian cities, the death-rate averaged 31.2 per 1,000; it was equal to 26.2 in Bombay, 27.8 in Calcutta, and 34.1 in Madras. Cholera caused 22 deaths in Calcutta and 16 in Bombay, while 20 fatal cases of small-pox occurred in Madras. The death-rate in Alexandria was equal to 47.7; the deaths included 20 from enteric fever and 8 from whooping-cough. According to the most recent weekly returns, the average annual death-rate in twenty-one European

cities was equal to 26.1 per 1,000 of their aggregate population, whereas the rate in the twenty large English towns did not average more than 20.5 last week. The rate in St. Petersburg showed an increase upon that prevailing in recent weeks, and was equal to 44.1; 33 deaths were referred to typhus and typhoid fevers, and 15 to scarlet fever. In three other northern cities—Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Christiania—the average rate did not exceed 15.6, the highest rate being 17.7 in Copenhagen; diphtheria caused 2 deaths in Stockholm and 3 in Christiania. The Paris death-rate further rose last week to 26.2, and the deaths included 35 from diphtheria and croup, 30 from enteric fever, and 7 from small-pox. The deaths in Brussels, of which 8 resulted from whooping-cough, were equal to a rate of 22.6. In Geneva, the death-rate was 23.3, and 3 deaths from typhus and enteric fevers were recorded. In three of the largest Dutch cities—Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and the Hague—the death-rate averaged 18.9, the highest rate being 20.2 in Amsterdam; scarlet fever caused 3 deaths in the Hague, and 2 deaths from "fevers" occurred in Amsterdam. The Registrar-General's table includes eight German and Austrian cities, in which the death-rate averaged 24.9, and ranged from 18.6 and 23.5 in Hamburg and Berlin, to 28.8 and 30.5 in Munich and Buda-Pesth. Small-pox caused 18 deaths in Vienna, while 41 deaths from diphtheria occurred in Berlin, 17 in Dresden, and 10 in Buda-Pesth. The rate in three Italian cities averaged 29.1, the principal excess occurring in Naples, the returns for which city relate to the first two weeks in June, when both measles and typhoid fever were fatally prevalent. The 124 deaths in Rome, in the second week of August, included 18 fatal cases of malarial fever. In four of the principal American cities, the death-rate averaged 25.0; it was equal to 20.4 in Philadelphia, 21.6 in Brooklyn, 24.5 in Baltimore, and 28.8 in New York. Small-pox caused 12 more deaths in Philadelphia, while diphtheria showed a fatal prevalence in New York, Brooklyn, and Baltimore.

MIDDLESEX AND HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINATION.—The reports which Dr. Saunders issues on the public health of this district are quite among the best of their kind. The preliminary remarks with which he customarily prefaces his reports on the separate districts in the combination are always worth reading, and this year they are of peculiar interest. Dr. Saunders again urges with much insistence the need for some hospital accommodation for infectious cases, and observes that he has no hesitation in saying that, in two districts at least, extensive epidemics of scarlet fever last year would not have occurred if a hospital had been in existence, as he had early intimation of the first cases, and they might have been isolated. Amongst the whole population (97,383 persons) living in the district, there were, during 1880, 1,545 deaths, giving a death-rate of 15.8 per 1,000. The number of deaths of children under one year was excessive, being no less than 30.4 per cent. of the total deaths. In the Tring Urban District, the proportion of these deaths to the total was as high as 44 per cent.; and in the St. Alban's Rural Sanitary District, 30 per cent. In the latter district, the excess was due to diarrhoea and whooping-cough, both of which were generally prevalent throughout the district. Indeed, in almost all the districts of the combination, the infantile death-rate was excessive. The fatal prevalence of summer diarrhoea must be held responsible in the main for this fatality; for, of the total deaths from this disease, 76.7 per cent. were of infants under one year of age, and 14.6 of children under five. Diarrhoea was most prevalent in the Hemel Hempstead, St. Alban's, and Watford Rural Sanitary Districts, and at Tring. The zymotic rate (exclusive of diarrhoea) was 7.3 per cent. of the total deaths. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused by far the largest number of deaths; and, as Dr. Saunders states, "in a climate so changeable as ours, this is not to be wondered at". Scarlet fever was somewhat prevalent in some parts of the district during the year, and notably in the Watford Rural District, where an extensive epidemic raged unabated, owing to the absence of any means of isolation. This disease was also epidemic in the Welwyn Rural District, and at Edgware, where also whooping-cough was prevalent. In the Watford Rural District, four cases of typhoid fever occurred, one of which "had been drinking water which was little better than sewage, and absolutely stank". Dr. Saunders notes an interesting case of small-pox, where the patient was a rag-sorter who had not slept out of his village for several months, and where the only possible way of accounting for the attack was by ascribing it to the dust shaken out of the rags during the sorting.

CATHETERISATION IN MEMBRANOUS CROUP.—Dr. Thomas Sanctury (*Maryland Medical Journal*, August 15th, 1881) reports a case of croup successfully treated by catheterisation of the larynx. The procedure was followed by convulsive efforts of coughing, during which a considerable amount of mucus, etc., was expectorated through the catheter. The catheter was tied in with a tape and removed twenty hours after insertion.

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.—North-west London, 2.30 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 (Orthopaedic 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., 1; Ophthalmic Department, W., 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, M. Th., 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. Tu. Th. F., 2; Ear, S., 1.30; Skin, W., 1.45; S., 9.15; 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. Mr. Thomas Bryant: A Case of Amputation of the Thigh for Knee-Joint Disease in a Man the subject of Phthisis. Dr. Radcliffe Crocker: A Case of Congenital Syphilis with enlarged Spleen and Thickening of the Cranial Bones.

TUESDAY.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson: Gangrenous Eruptions in connection with Chicken-pox and Vaccination. Mr. Clement Lucas: A Case of a Healthy Child suckled by a Mother inoculated with Syphilis subsequent to its Birth.

WEDNESDAY.—Hunterian Society, 8 P.M. Mr. Stevens will show a Tumour of the Brain. Mr. J. E. Adams will read a paper on Injuries to the Arteries of the Lower Extremity.

FRIDAY.—Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. C. J. Dent: A Case of Strangulated Hernia (Littre's) or Partial Enterocoele. Dr. Churton (Leeds): A Case of Fluid containing Cholesterol in the Pleura. Mr. Reeves: A Case of Stricture of the Pharynx and Oesophagus, with special reference to Gastro-tomy and Oesophagotomy. Dr. Stephen Mackenzie: A Case of Excessively High Temperature.—Quekett Microscopical Club, 8 P.M. Ordinary meeting.

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.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

LOCAL TREATMENT OF DIPHTHERIA.

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent respecting local applications in diphtheria, without wishing in any degree to disparage any other remedial means, I would recommend sulphur, having proved its efficacy in an outbreak of that disease which occurred in the Ludlow Union Workhouse School, in the spring of last year. Let the ulcerated surfaces be sprinkled with common brimstone in fine powder, by the aid of a camel's hair brush, or mixed with a little treacle, applied as a paste, four or five times a day. The rationale of this treatment is grounded on the assumption that a poisonous secretion exudes from the abraded surfaces, which is of an erysipelatos or spreading character. That being the case, the action of this poison is stopped by the neutralisation effected by the disinfectant properties of the sulphur, which thus destroys the germs of the disease, and prevents it from spreading. At the same time, its stimulating properties forwards the elimination of the bloodless, and therefore lifeless, membrane which has been formed. Should extended observations prove that the disease is propagated by the action of air (impregnated with its germs) on susceptible constitutions, then it is reasonable to expect that sulphur fumigations would arrest the progress of the disease when prevailing in schools or families. The benefit thus obtained locally may be aided by the internal administration of sulphur as an assistant purifier of the morbid condition of the blood.—I am, yours faithfully,

HENRY MEYMOTT, Medical Officer of the Ludlow Union Workhouse.

Ludlow, October 2th, 1881.

SIR,—I have found the local application of liquor ferri perchloridi rather injurious than otherwise. It hardens the false membrane, prevents its gradual detachment, and causes it to leave a bleeding surface on coming away. The application I have found of most use is a solution of hyposulphite of soda in glycerine, one drachm to the ounce, and a solution of the same in water, one drachm to eight ounces, to use with the spray. I apply the glycerine-solution every four hours; the spray three times a day, one or two minutes each time, giving time to the patient for a few breaths during the operation.

I have found all energetic treatment of throat symptoms useless; they are but symptoms of a general poisoning. If "J. P." raises a blister on any part of the body of a diphtheritic patient, and removes the cuticle, he will find that the raw surface will throw out a diphtheritic membrane. The treatment of this artificial exudation has in part confirmed my opinions on the subject.—Yours truly,

Melton Mowbray.

J. McGRAITH, M.D.

A MEMBER.—Essays for the Jacksonian Prize must be sent in on or before Saturday, the 31st of December. The following is the subject for the ensuing year: "Wounds and other Injuries of Nerves; their Symptoms, Pathology, and Treatment."

LAWFUL POISONING.

SIR,—I inclose a slip from a local newspaper, giving a substantially correct account of an inquest held last Friday morning, touching the death of a poor lady, a patient of mine, from accidentally taking an overdose of chloral. The following are the facts of the case, and they seem to me such as require very serious consideration, and energetic action to boot, if it can be brought to bear upon the cause of mischief.

The lady in question was of nervous temperament, and suffered much at times from gout in its various forms, for the relief of which she had for many years, but in direct opposition to my advice and earnest protestation, secretly taken chloral. On two former occasions, she had nearly lost her life from overdoses of this drug, and lately had been more or less constantly under its effects. I had directly charged her with this, but she would never admit it. Happening to call on her in the forenoon of last Thursday, I found her dead in her bed, with three empty bottles, each of which had contained twelve doses of "Hunter's solution of chloral", close to her bed-side. She was reported as well as usual at about eight o'clock on the previous evening, and had wound up both her watches at that time, but must have died early in the night, for when I found her she was cold and stiff. Stored away in a secret closet in her bedroom I found nine other bottles filled with the same dangerous drug, still enclosed in their wrappers, and on none of them is the word "Poison" (as required by the Act to regulate the Sale of Poisons of 1868) to be found; but they are all adorned with the Government patent medicine stamp; and this I find (by an absurd provision of the 16th section, which enacts that this wise obligation shall not "extend to or interfere with the making or dealing in patent medicines") exempts the makers or dealers from the necessity of so marking their dangerous wares. And they gladly avail themselves of the privilege, for the word "Poison" is an ugly one, and if used is found very considerably to hinder the sale of such drugs as are marked with it, to the great safety of the public, but by no means to the benefit of the makers and dealers aforesaid, some of whom are rich and influential, and will not hesitate to use their riches and influence in defence of their so-called rights.

But there is another matter connected with the sale of these poisons which requires attention, and that is the dangerous facility with which the public can obtain them in any quantities, without question or doctor's order, in spite of the provisions of the Act. No respectable druggist will so supply them; and in the present instance, the poor lady's order had been refused by such an one residing in this town; but the difficulty is easily got over, for it was from one of the London establishments that the last consignment of a dozen bottles was received by her during the last week of September.

By a curious coincidence, another fatal case of chloral poisoning, the circumstances of which so precisely resembled my own case that, *mutatis nomine*, one description would have answered for both, occurred at Kensington the night previously, an inquest on which was held by Dr. Diplock on Friday, when he, I am glad to say, called the attention of the police to these very abuses, so that it may be reasonably hoped that some efficient means will be found for checking them.—I am, sir, yours very truly,

THOMAS E. ARMYOT.

Diss, Norfolk, October 12th, 1881.

F. G. H.—Dr. Hume, Physician to the Forces, was an Irishman of great wit. One day, in company with the Rev. R. H. Barham, author of the *Ingoldsby Legends*, he entered the advertisement office of a newspaper, where the doctor solemnly placed on the counter an announcement of the death of some friend, together with five shillings, the usual charge for such advertisements. The clerk glanced at the paper, tossed it on one side, and said gruffly: "Seven and six." Dr. Hume mildly said: "I have frequently had occasion to publish these simple notices, and I have never before been charged more than five shillings." "Simple," replied the clerk, without looking up, "he's universally beloved and deeply regretted! Seven and six." Hume produced the additional half-crown, and laid it deliberately by the others, observing, as he did so, with the same solemnity of tone he had used throughout, "Congratulate yourself, sir, that this is an expense which your executors will never be put to."

IDIOTS' HOME.

SIR,—Can you, or any of your readers, inform me of a suitable institution where a young man, twenty-seven years of age, almost an idiot, could be received? His friends can afford to pay about £1 a week for him. He was once in an asylum for a short time, but was discharged as unsuitable for a lunatic asylum. I think I have read of such an institution been built by Professor Holloway, but cannot find the paper. Any information on the subject will be thankfully received by yours faithfully,
L.K.Q.C.P.

* A case such as the above, whose friends can afford to pay £1 per week, would, we think, be received at Earlswood, or Essex Hall, Colchester. Failing these, "L.K.Q.C.P." might try the Star Cross Idiot Asylum, Exeter. Into this last asylum, a friend informs us that he has been able to obtain the admission of patients when he has failed at Earlswood and Essex Hall. Holloway's institution, to which our correspondent refers, is an institution for lunatics, and is not yet open.

A "FRIENDLY" MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND ITS MEDICAL OFFICER.

SIR,—Last April I was elected as medical officer to an "Odd Fellows' Dispensary", and, on May 12th, commenced my duties, which were, to attend dispensary from 9 to 10.30 A.M., and from 6 to 7.30 P.M.; to visit patients unable to attend dispensary; and to attend midwifery, "as far as practicable with the discharge of the duties of the dispensary". A dispenser was provided by the Society. Previous to my election, the secretary led me to believe that the total number of members was three thousand, including wives and children. I afterwards found that the wives and children were in addition to the three thousand, thereby raising the total to between nine and ten thousand.

The average number of attendances at dispensary each day was forty, and the number of patients on the visiting list per week, for the first month, averaged fifty-six. No conveyance was found, nor was there any allowance made for hiring, so the visiting had to be done on foot. The extent of the district was a radius of three miles from the dispensary, which was situated as near as possible in the centre of the town, and the patients who required visiting lay scattered all over the district. Being a stranger to the place, I had the greatest difficulty in finding out the residence of each.

After one month's hard work, I was surprised by complaints of negligence being brought forward against me at a weekly meeting of the committee, none of which were true, neither did they originate from the patients. In consequence of them, however, I wrote a letter to the committee, denying the charges made against me by their "sick visitors", expressing my dissatisfaction with the manner in which the dispensary was managed, and complaining of the misconduct and gross carelessness of the dispenser. I also told them that the work was too much for one medical officer, and requested them to supply me with a qualified assistant, so that the duties could be performed with more satisfaction to the members and benefit to the Society.

The answer I received was, one month's notice that my services would not be required after August 12th. During my three months of office, I prescribed for over 3,000 at dispensary, visited upwards of 700, and attended 12 cases of midwifery. Shortly after I commenced, I had occasion to find fault with the dispenser for giving medicines to one of the patients which I had not prescribed, also for his irregularity in attendance; and, later on, I was obliged to complain of his negligence in dispensing; so I requested the committee to dismiss him, and supply me with a "duly qualified dispenser", according to our agreement. I also objected to his undertaking my duty at dispensary, and prescribing for patients during my absence, he being unqualified, and therefore in my opinion totally unfit to do so. However, the committee thought differently; and, on every occasion that I was absent, he was made by them to take my place, and prescribe for a roomful of patients, which I need not say gave great dissatisfaction to all who required advice.

He was a member of one of the lodges, and a "coal agent" by trade, in which capacity he was also employed by the committee. For this reason, they got his services as dispenser at a very low rate, and, that being a great consideration, they deemed it better to keep him, and dismiss me.

From the commencement, the treatment I met with from the committee was characteristic of the men who composed it, the secretary being the most officious and insulting of the lot. On the other hand, I experienced great kindness and consideration from the patients, and it was with feelings of regret on my part that my connection with them as medical officer terminated so soon.—I am, sir, yours truly,
GEORGE H. ORMSBY, L.R.C.S.I., etc.

2, High Street, Wood Green, N., September 20th, 1881.

PERPLEXITY (Hemel Hempstead) must state his requirements a little more exactly, and in detail.

ATMOSPHERIC DISINFECTION.

SIR,—In this week's JOURNAL there was a short account of a small apparatus, very artistic in its design, for the purpose of diffusing one of the products of the distillation of coal in the atmosphere. We have long been acquainted with the fact that much benefit is derived from the diffusion of carbolic acid in the treatment of whooping-cough; and I believe this method of treating the malady has become very general. The principle, too, is very ancient; for if we may credit history in such a matter, the plague of Athens was arrested by Acron of Argirentum, who lighted large fires in different parts of the city and burned various volatile substances by which the air was purified.

The object of this letter is to point out the difference between burning a substance and diffusing it in the atmosphere. For example, a strong solution of carbolic acid and water will burn with a smoky flame, but the carbolic acid will be consumed, and not diffused, so that practically there is no benefit whatever from igniting the disinfectant. The question naturally suggests itself, What is the best plan to adopt for obtaining the most perfect diffusion of a disinfectant, assuming that noxious germs may be destroyed in the atmosphere in this way? Carbolic acid has an advantage over the other products of coal-distillation in one important particular. If a solution of, say, one of acid to forty of water be evaporated at boiling-point, the vapour will not vary in its percentage of contained acid, but will continue of the same strength during the process of evaporation, and there will be no residue if pure acid be used. Some of the fragrant gum resins and turpentine may be treated in the same way, and their volatile constituents diffused in the air; but owing to the fact that they are volatilised unequally, and some at lower temperatures than boiling water, the same equal diffusion does not obtain.

In order to show the practical value of treating this subject scientifically, I may mention that directions for inhaling carbolic acid are sometimes given which would not be of the use intended, as, for example, when a patient is told to add thirty grains of carbolic acid to half a pint of hot water. The actual amount of carbolic acid inhaled or diffused into the air by this method would be infinitesimally small,

for the amount of acid evolved would bear the same proportion to the amount of aqueous vapour as the thirty grains bear to the half-pint of water. These remarks, I hope, will indicate the principle on which atmospheric disinfection depends.—I am, yours obediently,
ROBERT LEE.

6, Savile Row, September 1st, 1881.

GALL-STONES.

SIR,—I have read with much pleasure the discussion on jaundice opened by Dr. Lauder Brunton at the Ryde meeting of the Association, and reported by you in the JOURNAL for September 17th. The incidental remarks on the treatment for the prevention of gall-stones interested me especially. For some years, I was in the habit of using in this complaint a method of treatment suggested to me by the late Dr. Warburton Begbie of Edinburgh, and from which I have seen benefit. The treatment consisted in administering a course of pills composed of the green iodide of mercury, manna, and soap. A useful point in diagnosis was, at the same time, told me by Dr. Begbie. He considered, when gall-stones were present, there was pain, jaundice, and vomiting; when only inspissated bile was passing, there was no vomiting, only pain and jaundice.

Since Professor Rutherford read the result of his valuable researches on the action of remedies on the liver, before the Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical Society, it struck me that iridin, from its action on the liver, might prevent the formation of gall-stones. I accordingly tried it in the first case I met, and found the result most encouraging. Since then, I have used it in many cases, two or three of which I may mention. I give the iridin in pills consisting of iridin gr. i; pil. rhei co. gr. iv; one to be taken every night at bedtime, till twelve are taken. If necessary, some saline mineral water may be given in the morning. A course of these pills should be taken, say, once in two months.

About two years ago, a lady had a very severe attack of gall-stones; and, being treated on this method, has had no more attacks. Another lady, who frequently suffered from this complaint, and went to many medical men without obtaining relief, consulted me eighteen months ago. Irudin was ordered; and, last week, I received a letter from her husband, thanking me for my prescription, and informing me that, since I had prescribed for his wife, she had not had an attack of her formerly frequently-recurring and troublesome complaint. A legal gentleman, who was a martyr to this malady, which returned with great frequency, and caused much prostration by the severity of the attacks, on trying my treatment, recommended to him twelve months ago, has escaped during that time a return of the disease.

I have written this letter with the hope that others may give this remedy a trial, and record their experience.—I am, yours, etc.,
P. A. YOUNG, M.D.
Portobello, Midlothian, September 21st, 1881.

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

Mr. J. H. Palmer, Birmingham; Mr. T. Holmes, London; Mr. J. W. Wilson, Plymouth; Mr. A. Jackson, Sheffield; A Member, South Wales; Syphax; Dr. Richard Neale, London; Dr. Heywood Smith, London; Dr. J. A. Irwin, Manchester; Dr. C. Creighton, London; Mr. C. Gibson, Stafford; Dr. Joseph Groves, Carisbrooke; Mr. H. Lewis Jones, London; Mr. F. Churchward, South Norwood; Mr. C. de Figueirdo, Longsight, Manchester; Dr. J. C. Uthoff, Brighton; Sir W. Mac Cormac, London; Dr. Broadbent, London; Dr. Alderson, Hammersmith; Dr. T. Sandiford, Castlemartyr; Mr. J. P. Postage, Cambridge; Dr. C. Hicks, London; Dr. Gillespie, London; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. A. Graham, Weybridge; Dr. C. Glascoot, Manchester; Mr. J. E. Ingpen, London; Mr. G. E. Wilson, London; Mr. W. H. Anderson, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Messrs. E. Chapman and Co., London; Mr. J. L. Nevin, Chesterfield; Dr. H. E. Armstrong, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. Robert Barker, London; Dr. Gerald E. Barrow, Caterham Valley; Dr. W. Jeffrey, Glasgow; Rusticus; Mr. W. Berry, Wigan; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Dr. C. B. Kelsey, New York; Mr. C. R. Illingworth, Clayton-le-Moors; One Interested in Asylum Matters; Dr. Clement Dukes, Rugby; Mr. T. Comfield, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. G. Eastes, London; Mr. Shirley Murphy, London; Battalion Surgeon; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

A Treatise on Chemistry. Vol. III; Part I. By H. E. Roscoe. London: Macmillan and Co. 1881.
Transactions of the American Gynecological Society for the Year 1880. Vol. v. Boston: Houghton and Co. 1881.
Medical Electricity, with Ninety-six Illustrations. By R. Bartholow, A.M., M.D. London: H. Kimpton. 1881.
Dramatic Singing. By Walter Hayle Walshe, M.D. London: Kegan Paul and Co. 1881.

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