

Diseases, and, especially upon the Etiology of Pulmonary Consumption." He gave a brief review of the germ theory of disease, instancing the familiar and typical zymotic process in the action of yeast upon a saccharine solution, and showing that similarly in the human body, certain organisms gave rise to certain specific diseases. He referred to the investigations of Chauveau, Braidwood and Vacher (*BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, January 1882), and Pasteur, and spoke of the artificial and spontaneous attenuations of zymotic poisons. It should be remembered that the hard and fast lines between different diseases, as laid down in text-books, do not exist in nature, and that types of disease, like domestic animals and plants, are constantly undergoing evolution and modification of type owing to surrounding circumstances and treatment. The most remarkable recent instance of this is the curious experiment of the Fraulein von Chauvin, who by a course of physical treatment converted a number of Mexican water-breathing axolotls with gills and rudimentary lungs into amblyostomas, similar animals living on land and with lungs. Another disease, the result of germs, is typhoid fever, and in reference to this there are two noteworthy points. One is, that, if sewage be poured through Italian ryegrass, the spongioles destroy all germs, and leave the resulting fluid so far harmless. The other is, that although germs will pass through the finest filters, filtration through spongy iron entirely destroys them. According to Dr. Frankland, spongy iron filtration is "absolutely fatal to bacteria and their germs." Nothing, Dr. Quinlan observed, has as yet been done to attenuate the poisons of measles or scarlatina; but if we can argue from what has been done in similar cases, it is probable that it will ere long be done; and these maladies, which now rank almost as inevitable diseases, will become as little so as small-pox. In conclusion, the lecturer referred to the tubercle-bacillus of Koch, and to the curious differences in the susceptibility of different animals to tubercular infection. St. Vincent's Hospital has now 160 beds. Its new wards are very complete, and there is an admirable laboratory attached.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 1883: ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

MEETINGS of the Committee of Council will be held on Wednesday, January 17th, April 11th, July 11th, and October 17th. Gentlemen desirous of becoming members must send in their forms of application for election to the General Secretary not later than 21 days before each meeting, viz., December 6th, March 21st, May 21st, September 26th, in accordance with the regulation for the election of members passed at the meeting of the Committee of Council of October 12th, 1881.

November 9th, 1882. FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

COLLECTIVE INVESTIGATION OF DISEASE.

CARDS and explanatory memoranda, for the inquiries concerning Acute Pneumonia, Chorea, and Acute Rheumatism, are now in circulation; and can be had on application to the Honorary Secretaries of the Local Committees appointed by the Branches; or to the Secretary of the Collective Investigation Committee.

Members of the Association and others are earnestly requested to fill up cards, describing *all cases of these diseases coming under their care*, whether presenting features of special interest or not. All cases are equally valuable for the objects in view, however uncomplicated and mild they may be.

The cards will be called in, for the purpose of tabulating them, at the end of the year.

Cards containing clinical and etiological inquiries concerning Diphtheria, together with an explanatory memorandum, are also in the hands of the Honorary Secretaries, for the approval or criticism of the local committees, previously to their adoption by the General Committee. One of these cards is intended to serve as a guide to the systematic examination of a house or district for sanitary purposes; it indicates the chief methods of conveying contagion, and the common sanitary defects; it is hoped that it will thus prove of practical service to those in medical charge of households in which epidemic disease exists. Suggestions and criticisms concerning these cards will be gladly received by the Secretary before the next meeting of the General Committee, which will be held at the offices of the Association, on Wednesday, the 22nd instant.

F. A. MAHOMED, *Secretary to the Committee*,
12, St. Thomas's Street, London, S.E.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.—The first general meeting of the present session will be held at the Railway Hotel, Stoke-upon-Trent, on Thursday, November 30th, at 4 P.M.—VINCENT JACKSON, *Honorary Secretary*, Wolverhampton.

NORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH.—A meeting of this Branch will be held in the Belfast Royal Hospital, on Thursday, December 7th. Members intending to read papers are requested to communicate immediately with ALEX. DEMPSEY, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*, 26, Clifton Street, Belfast.—October 26th, 1882.

MIDLAND BRANCH.—A meeting will be held at Boston, on Thursday, November 23rd, when the Committee for the Collective Investigation of Disease, for the county of Lincoln, will be appointed. Gentlemen intending to read papers, or to show specimens or cases, are requested to communicate with the District Honorary Secretary W. A. CARLINE, M.D., Lincoln.

EAST LONDON AND SOUTH-ESSEX DISTRICT: METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.—The next meeting of the district will take place on Thursday evening, November 16th, at 8.30, at the Hackney Town Hall, when Mr. Frederic Treves will read a paper on Some of the After-effects of Strangulated Hernia. Members having specimens to exhibit, or short cases to narrate, are requested to make early communication to the Honorary Secretary, FREDERICK WALLACE, 95, Cazenove Road, N.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SUSSEX DISTRICT.—The next meeting of the above District will take place at the Queen's Hotel, Eastbourne, on Tuesday, November 28th, at 3.45 P.M. Dr. Hayman of Eastbourne will preside. The following papers have been promised. 1. Dr. Haggood: On a Case of Tubal Gestation, with specimen. 2. Dr. Ewart: Two Cases of Acute Dysentery in returned Anglo-Indian, with remarks on the best methods of giving Ipecacuanha. Dinner at 6 P.M.; charge, 6s., exclusive of wine. Notice of intended communications should be sent at once to the Honorary Secretary, T. JENNER VERRALL, 95, Western Road, Brighton.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.—The autumn meeting will be held at the Royal Hotel, Scarborough, at 3 P.M., on Wednesday, November 15th, when the following papers will be read. 1. The President (Mr. Jessop): a. Cases of Non-suicidal Self-injury; b. Removal of Fibroma from Fundus Uteri. 2. Mr. H. E. Spencer: Case of Cystocele: Induction of Premature Labour: Operation: Cure. 3. Dr. Goyden: A Note on Albuminuria. 4. Mr. Edward Atkinson: a. Pulsatile Tumour of Tibia; b. Numerous Pedicled Growths removed from the Knee-cavity, with an useful joint resulting. 5. Mr. Arthur Jackson: Treatment of Disease of the Hip-joint.

SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT.—A meeting of the above District will be held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham, on Friday, November 17th, at 3 P.M.; A. W. Nankivell, F.R.C.S., in the chair. Dinner will take place at the Bull Hotel, Rochester, at 5.30 P.M. Charge, six shillings per head, exclusive of wine. All members of the South Eastern Branch are entitled to attend this meeting and introduce friends. The following papers have already been promised. A. W. Nankivell, Esq.: 1. A case of Dislocation of the Femur on to the Pubes. 2. A case of Compound Comminuted Fracture of Elbow-joint. 3. A case of wound of the Palmar Arch. F. B. Jessett, Esq.: A case of large fluid Tumour of the Uterus, removed by Abdominal Section and Enucleation, complicated by Cystic Disease of Right Ovary.—A. H. B. HALLOWES, *Honorary Secretary*.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

AN ordinary meeting was held at Aberdare on October 26th, EVAN JONES, Esq., president, in the chair. About twenty members were present.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were elected: Ivor A. Lewis, Esq., Cymer; Arthur Warburton, Esq., Treherbert; P. Rhys Griffith, M.B., B.Sc. Lond., Cardiff Infirmary; Sidney O. Bishop, Esq., Koomtoi, Upper Assam (Association only); W. D. Sheppard, Esq., Cyfoeth (Branch only); and Hugh P. Price, Esq., Narberth (Branch only).

A letter was read from Dr. Talfourd Jones regarding representation of the branch on the Committee of Council; as also invitation of the Association to Cardiff in 1885.—It was resolved: "That the consideration of these matters be postponed till next meeting."

Papers.—The following were read.—Mr. J. R. James read, for Mr. E. S. Warburton (Treherbert) notes of a successful case of ovariectomy, under antiseptic precautions. The pedicle was tied in eight parts with carbolised silk, and returned. Keith's glass drainage-tube was used. There was some elevation of temperature for a few days.—Mr. T. W. Parry (Ferndale), read notes of a case of popliteal aneurysm, cured by pressure on the femoral in Scarpa's triangle, after failure of Esmarch's bandage.—Mr. H. N. Davies (Cymer), showed a perineal band.

Dinner.—The members, after a visit to the Cottage hospital, dined together at the Black Lion Hotel.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH: AUTUMNAL MEETING.

THE autumnal meeting of this Branch was held at the Whitehaven Infirmary, October 27th, 1882. The chair was taken by the President, Dr. KNIGHT, at 1.30 P.M. Seventeen members and visitors were present.

New Member.—Dr. Thomas Jackson, of Whitehaven, was elected a member.

President-elect.—The Secretary having reported that Dr. Robertson of Penrith, whilst thanking the Branch for the honour of electing him President, begged to decline, it was moved by Dr. BARNES, and seconded by Dr. L'ANSON: "That the election of President for next year be deferred until the spring meeting, and also that the place of the annual meeting be then reconsidered." This was carried unanimously.

Spring Meeting.—It was moved by Dr. BARNES, and seconded by Dr. SPEIRS: "That it be a recommendation from this meeting to the Council of the Branch, that the spring meeting be held in the evening at Carlisle, in February." This was carried unanimously.

Discussion.—Dr. MACLAREN then introduced a discussion on "The Treatment of recent Wounds," in which most of the members present joined.

Papers.—The following papers were then read:

1. *On the Treatment of Malignant Ulceration of the Tongue.* By H. A. LEDIARD, M.D.—After briefly alluding to the operations for removal of the tongue practised by Regnoli, Syme, Fergusson, Nunneley, Paget, Scdillit, Collis, Buchanan, Morratt Baker, Trendelenburg, and others, he dwelt upon and recommended the method introduced by Whitehead of Manchester, as an operation likely to be generally adopted. One entire tongue, removed in February 1881, was shown. The patient, a man aged sixty-nine, died in fourteen hours from shock. One-half of another patient's tongue was also exhibited, the operation having been performed with scissors also; on October 17th, the patient was convalescent. Dr. Lediard concluded by urging a trial of Whitehead's method in such cases of malignant disease of the tongue, if the surgeon could depend upon his eyes and fingers, and on the ability of those who afford the assistance required.

2. *On the Abuse of Narcotics.* By HENRY BARNES, M.D.—After referring to the great increase in the number of those who habitually misuse narcotic drugs, reference was made to the provisions of the Pharmacy Act of 1868 which regulate the sale of poisons, and the dangerous facilities which exist for obtaining enormous quantities of highly poisonous drugs were pointed out. It was shown that the narcotic habit may very quickly set up, and the necessity for watching the uses to which prescriptions may be put was indicated. Examples were given in which large quantities of narcotics had been obtained. The morphia habit was also discussed in some detail, and its symptoms described. A case was reported, in which a patient had purchased very large quantities of chlorodyne, a patent preparation which has been proved by analysis to contain morphia, prussic acid, and chloroform, and which has been supposed to contain also Indian hemp and belladonna, the presence of which has been inferred from the physiological symptoms which it produces. The necessity for placing restrictions on the sale of all patent remedies that contain poisonous ingredients was pointed out, and the action of the Parliamentary Bills Committee in regard to this matter was strongly approved.

Dr. BARNES then made an explanatory statement of the work of the Committee for the Collective Investigation of Disease.

Dinner.—The members afterwards dined together; Dr. Knight in the chair, Dr. L'Anson in the vice-chair.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE ninth annual meeting of this Branch was held on Thursday, October 26th, 1882, at the Bell Medical Library, Cleveland Road, Wolverhampton. Dr. Arlidge, in the absence of the president, Mr. J. K. Wynne, introduced the president-elect, Dr. TOTHERICK, who took the chair.

Letters were read from Mr. Ernest Hart, the chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee, Mr. Vose Solomon, and Mr. Ernest Elkington, of Newport.

Vote of Thanks.—Mr. WESTON proposed: "That the best thanks of meeting be given to the retiring president, Mr. J. K. Wynne, for his services during the past year." This was seconded by Dr. LYCETT, and carried unanimously.

President's Address.—The PRESIDENT delivered an address upon "The Relations of the Medical Profession to the Public." On the motion of Dr. MILLINGTON, seconded by Mr. SPANTON, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Totherick for his address.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were elected members of the Branch: Dr. Gibson, Stone; Mr. E. T. Collins, Wednesbury; Mr. R. W. Collings, Wolverhampton; Dr. Hatton, North Staffordshire Infirmary; Mr. R. J. W. Orton, Newcastle; Mr. J. P. Edwards, Tunstall; Dr. Malet, Wolverhampton.

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

"Your Council has to report that the usual number of general meetings has been held during the year; and at two, in addition to the purely professional subjects detailed and discussed, important debates have taken place upon, on the one hand 'The relations existing between homœopaths and the Association,' and on the other hand, 'The Journal of the Association.' Both debates were concluded by resolutions, which were sent to the secretary of the Association for presentation to the Committee of Council. The discussion on the first subject was initiated by a letter which was received from the South Western Branch, asking the Branch to record its opinion upon two resolutions which had lately been passed by the members of that Branch. Not only did this Branch affirm these resolutions, but they unanimously passed an additional one, requesting the Committee of Council to put in force by-law 3 of the Association, 'with regard to those who practise homœopathy whether such persons have been admitted members of the Association prior to, or subsequent to their profession and practise of homœopathy.' The President of the Council, in a lengthy reply to the above resolution, informed the Branch that in the present state of divided professional opinion on the homœopathic question, the Committee of Council felt themselves unable to do anything in the matter. At the last general meeting of this Branch, communications were read from the Collective Investigation Committee of the Association. These were referred to the Branch Council for consideration, and at a special meeting of the Council, held at Stafford on July 6th, it was unanimously agreed to ask the following gentlemen to become members of a local Collective Investigation Subcommittee, viz., Dr. Arlidge, Dr. Cooke, Mr. Gray, Dr. W. G. Lowe, Dr. McAlldowie, Dr. Malet, Dr. Monckton, Dr. McMunn, Mr. Vincent Jackson, Mr. Phillips, Dr. Reid, Mr. Sharp, Dr. Totherick, and Dr. J. H. Tylecote. Your Council beg to thank these gentlemen for their ready acceptance of increased duties, and they trust that their labours may be rewarded by great and beneficial results. The following petitions, after being signed, have been presented to the House of Commons: a petition in favour of Officers' Superannuation (Ireland) Bill; a petition praying for exemption from the proposed increase of the tax on carriages; a petition in favour of militia surgeons being allowed a retiring allowance upon resignation. Your Council desires to thank Mr. A. S. Hill, Q.C., and Mr. H. H. Fowler, for their kindness in presenting these petitions. The following members have, by their contributions at the various meetings earned the thanks of your Council: Mr. J. G. U. West, Mr. Alcock, Mr. Spanton, Dr. Orton, Dr. Monckton, Mr. Folker, Dr. Reid, Dr. McAlldowie, Dr. J. H. Tylecote, Mr. L. Tait, Mr. Edgar Flinn, and Mr. Vincent Jackson. The number of members, sixteen being new, is now 131, being a gain of eight upon last year's total."

The adoption of the report was moved by Mr. NEWNHAM, seconded by Dr. McAlldowie, and carried.

Financial Statement.—Mr. SPANTON, in the absence of Mr. J. G. U. West, Financial Secretary, and of Mr. Folker, Auditor, read the statement of accounts for the past year, which showed a balance of £24 1s. 5d.

Next Annual Meeting.—Dr. ARLIDGE proposed that the next annual meeting be held at Stoke-upon-Trent. This was seconded by Mr. BUNCH, and agreed to.

Election of Officers for 1882-83.—The following were elected. *President-elect:* Dr. C. Orton. *Vice-Presidents:* Mr. W. H. Folker, Mr. J. K. Wynne. *General Secretary:* Mr. Vincent Jackson. *Financial Secretary:* Mr. J. G. U. West. *Auditor:* Mr. Folker. *Representatives of the Branch upon the Parliamentary Bills Committee:* Dr. C. Orton, Mr. Spanton. *Council:* Dr. Arlidge, Stoke; Mr. Boldero, Penkridge; Dr. Reid, Stafford; Dr. E. Fernie, Stone; Mr. Gray, Cannock; Mr. H. M. Morgan, Lichfield; Dr. McAlldowie, Stoke; Mr. J. T. Hartill, Willenhall; Dr. Millington, Wolverhampton; Mr. G. G. Sharp, Walsall; Mr. Mulville Thompson, Newport; Mr. J. W. Wolfenden, Tutbury. *Representatives in Council of the Association:* Dr. Arlidge, Stoke; Mr. J. Alcock, Burslem; Mr. W. H. Folker, Hanley; Dr. Monckton, Rugeley; Mr. W. D. Spanton, Hanley; Mr. F. E. Weston, Stafford.

Votes of Thanks were passed to the auditor and secretaries, on the proposition of Dr. TOTHERICK, seconded by Mr. J. Harthill.

Collective Investigation Committee.—Dr. Mahomed of London was present at the meeting, and explained the objects of the Collective Investigation Committee. He hoped that a large local committee would be formed, and that each member of the committee would use his influence with other medical men, so that as many reports as possible upon the four diseases at present selected for investigation might be obtained.

A Vote of Thanks to Dr. Mahomed for his address was proposed by Dr. TOTHERICK, seconded by Mr. MANBY, and carried with the utmost cordiality and unanimity.

Dinner.—The members dined together at the close of the meeting. The Mayor of Wolverhampton (H. C. Owen, Esq.), the Rev. J. T. Jeffcock, rector of St. Peter's Church, and Dr. Mahomed, were present as guests.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TYPHOID AT VENTNOR?

SIR,—A charge of the most mischievous nature was brought on the 1st instant, in two of the London evening papers, against the sanitary state of Ventnor, by a Mr. W. J. Ebbett of London: that several (unspecified) cases of typhoid fever had occurred at Ventnor this autumn.

The allegations have naturally caused a sensation in the town, and terrorised intending visitors, of which I have two examples among my own distant friends. The medical practitioners have promptly confuted the general charge as to the prevalence of typhoid; but no one, so far, has analysed Mr. Ebbett's injurious communication, and replied *seriatim* to his statement of fact. Let me do this as briefly as possible in the ear of the faculty.

1. Mr. Ebbett states, that the outflow of the main sewage is "close to the shore"; 2, that "the sewage is seen at the outflow, at low tides"; 3, that said "outflow is near the pier" (a public promenade); 4, that it is "in proximity to the bathing-place".

If these four imputed facts were *truths*, no more serious indictment could be framed against the authorities of the town; but the facts are each of them untrue, and, in their combination, give a distorted colour to the whole case. 1. The outflow is *not* "close to the shore", but is carried far out into the flow of every tide-wave, at high or low water, at the instance of a sanitary engineer. 2. The sewage *cannot* be seen at the lowest possible tide. 3. The outflow is distant from the pier, on the *east* side of it. 4. The bathing-place is on the *west* side, at least a quarter of a mile distant.

So much for the discrepancy between facts and truths. One word of comment. I suppose there is not a town in the United Kingdom, of 5,000 inhabitants and upwards, where there are not one or more isolated cases of typhoid fever every year, be the situation littoral or inland; and so an isolated case may be at Ventnor. But this is no reason why the place should be blazoned and vilified as it has been. One of the local journals urges the authorities to institute legal proceedings against the libeller. If I might advise, I say No. Leave him to the slings and arrows of his own conscience; but let him understand that no remorse of conscience can atone for the gratuitous injury he has inflicted on this health-giving winter resort.—Yours truly,

CORNELIUS NICHOLSON, J.P. & D.L.

Ashleigh, Ventnor, November 5th, 1882.

SIR,—We, the undersigned medical practitioners in active practice in the town of Ventnor, can, from our personal knowledge, emphatically contradict Mr. W. J. Ebbett's statement made in the *Globe* of the 1st inst., and the *Standard* of to-day, to the effect that typhoid fever is or has been prevalent at Ventnor during any portion of the present year. We are able to aver that there is not a single case under treatment at the present time in the town.—We are, etc.,

J. G. SINCLAIR COHILL, M.D., F.R.C.P. Edin.

JOHN L. WHITEHEAD, M.D.

JAMES M. WILLIAMSON, M.D.

WALTER A. HARVEY, M.B.

HORACE LOWTHER, L.R.C.P.

Ventnor, November 2nd, 1882.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a letter in the *Globe* of the 1st inst., and the *Standard* of to-day, in which a correspondent takes upon himself to state that typhoid fever is raging at Ventnor. My official position as Medical Officer of Health of Ventnor enables me to give an unqualified denial to such an assertion—the statement is false. My published report states that there were only three cases of typhoid fever in the town during the year 1881. Up to this day there have been only three cases under treatment this year; of these, two were imported—visitors who arrived with the disease fully developed; the third was that of a resident; all of these cases recovered. For the accuracy of this information I can vouch.

Were it not for the violence of the correspondent's letter, and the injustice he does to a town which in its sanitary arrangements can now,

as proved by my health statistics, vie with any town in the United Kingdom, I should have preferred allowing the calumny to die its own death.—I am, etc.,

E. RUSSELL WOODFORD, M.D., Medical Officer of Health.
Marboro' House, Ventnor, November 2nd, 1882.

MEDICAL EDUCATION.

SIR,—In his short letter to the *JOURNAL* of October 28th, Dr. Sawyer has called attention to a grave defect in the present system of medical education, viz., its failure to teach men to appreciate the significance of those general symptoms of disease visible to the naked eye, an acquaintance with which is universally admitted to constitute the first and most important step to the proper understanding of any particular case.

The natural result is, that men leave the hospitals utterly unfit for the duties of general practice, having studied almost everything but this—the most essential. No sooner does a patient present himself, than they rush at him with a stethoscope, or something of that sort, without having formed any previous idea as to the nature of the case; hoping, I suppose, that something will turn up in the course of their haphazard examination. In the art of interrogation they are equally deficient, generally asking pointless questions, and then jumping at hasty and erroneous conclusions. In short, they do not know how to observe or what to ask.

"It verily seems, I deliberately repeat," says Trousseau, "as if the medical intellect had been upset by Laënnec's discovery. Physicians rushed into excesses of physical inquiry; one would give the medical world his *petit bruit de souffle*, and another would point out some *nuance*, which had been neglected by the otherwise comprehensive genius of Laënnec."

In the midst of these excesses, we have forgotten that Hippocrates and his successors, more than 2,000 years ago, were able to discriminate and treat diseases with notable skill, the lack of modern developments of medical science notwithstanding. They regarded the phenomena of disease in their mutual bearings, in their order of succession; in short, as nature presents them, and not as so many artificial entities, having no actual existence, except in the imagination of certain persons, who think they can prescribe limits to natural phenomena by straight lines.

If medicine were a perfect science, no doubt we might proceed from theory to practice with something like mathematical certainty; but, in its present state of imperfection, the futility of such attempts must be admitted, and we ought to acknowledge more than we do the necessity for studying our profession otherwise than as the mere outcome of theoretical considerations.

There is, indeed, in the present system of medical education, much that is hypothetical, fallacious, and unsatisfactory. Possibly this may explain the remarkable fact in connection with medical examinations mentioned by Sydney Smith, that nearly all the subjects they embrace may be discarded immediately the ordeal is over, without the slightest detriment to any future professional prospects.

For my own part, I regard the unbridled licence so unwisely accorded to the present system of education by examination as a monstrous evil; since, instead of educated gentlemen, it tends to produce mere examination-passing machines, as well stuffed with pedantic learning to gratify the unreasonable demands of insatiable examiners, as Michaelmas geese with piquant seasoning, to suit the depraved tastes of confirmed gourmands. It seems to me high time to rouse the examiners from their sleep of complacency, and to inform them that great changes have taken place in the village of Falling Waters since they climbed up the Catskill Mountains, and that the aspirations of the rising generation can no longer be submitted to their unbridled caprice. Here is a fine field of activity for the British Medical or any other Association.—Yours, etc.,

October 30th, 1882.

W. ROGER WILLIAMS.

POST MORTEM EXAMINATION IN PRISONS.

SIR,—It may ease the minds of some prison medical officers if they read the following. I am medical officer to one of Her Majesty's prisons. Soon after the order was issued by the Home Secretary directing that *post mortem* examinations upon the bodies of all persons dying in prisons were to be made by independent medical men, I met the coroner (a lawyer), whose duty it is to examine into the cause of such deaths at the prison to which I am attached.

Without a word upon the subject from me, he told me he considered the order an insult to the medical officers of the prisons; and, after looking into the matter, he found that it was at the coroner's option as to whom he should direct to make a *post mortem* examination in such cases, and for his part, he always intended asking me to do so if he

felt to be almost intolerable. We trust, therefore, that no attempt will be made to carry out the particular recommendation which the general officer lately commanding in Egypt has made on this occasion. There are so many other ways of rewarding Brigade-Surgeon Jackson without doing injustice to others, and without creating the dissatisfaction which the proposed special promotion would lead to, that we hope some of these alternatives may in preference be adopted. We sincerely hope that Dr. Jackson may receive the distinction which his meritorious services entitle him to; but we hardly believe that he himself would choose a kind of reward which could only be given at the expense of his medical comrades, and which would be contrary to a set rule in a warrant confirmed by royal signature.

OMISSION IN THE LAST GAZETTE.

In the long list of officers, non-commissioned officers and men, published in the *Gazette*, on the recommendation of Sir Garnet Wolseley, conspicuous by their absence are the names of Deputy-Surgeon General Colvin Smith, and the medical officers of the Indian Contingent. Why this act of omission, which will be felt to be a great injustice? When some of the correspondents of English newspapers were bringing thoughtless and quite unjust charges against the officers of the Army Medical Department, not a word was whispered against their Indian brethren. On the contrary, it was observed on all hands, that the arrangements of the Indian Contingent were complete as to equipment, medical attendance, food, and transport. We have been at some pains to ascertain the truth in this matter, and are satisfied that the health of the Indian Contingent, so well preserved in this campaign, was in a great measure due to the long experience in the field, and the admirable arrangements, for which its medical staff deserve their full share of credit. For ourselves, we are inclined to attribute this grave omission to what has become quite a tradition in India, viz., the withholding of honours, whenever possible, from the medical service of the army in that great possession of the Crown. It is high time that this tradition was broken. The position into which the medical service of India is fast gliding, is such, that acts of injustice, like the one under notice, will go a long way to dry up the sources which have so long supplied, with unflinching regularity, a body of medical officers second to none in the world. Surely some member of Parliament will ask a question in the House on this subject.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

PARLIAMENTARY GRANT.

SIR,—Last session, Parliament voted the additional sum of £10,000 for pauper medical relief in Scotland. Have any of my professional brethren in Scotland been benefited by it? I had hopes of an increase of salary, but I may have taken a wrong view of the matter. Was the grant given to supplement the salaries of parochial medical officers, or to relieve the ratepayer, or for what purpose was it voted?—Yours,
A PAROCHIAL SURGEON IN A MIST.

* * The parliamentary grant towards the payment of Poor-law medical officers' salaries was originally devised by the late Sir Robert Peel, under the mistaken view which he held that boards of guardians might be induced thereby to act more liberally towards these badly paid gentlemen. The grant has had no such beneficial result. Guardians have universally pocketed the same, and left their officers' stipends just what they were before; indeed, were inquiry made of individual guardians, it would be found that the vast majority of these persons know nothing whatever of the grant, and, in their ignorance, verily believe that these stipends are paid out of their own pockets. Our Scotch medical friends are much to blame. They have never made an effort to alter the truly miserable plight in which they are.

A SUPERANNUATION GRANT IN THE MONMOUTH UNION.

WE observe, in the *Dean Forest Guardian* of the 27th October, that, at the fortnightly meeting of the Monmouth board of guardians, Mr. J. T. Adams moved, pursuant to a notice specially summoning the attendance of the members, that a superannuation allowance of £50 a year be granted to Mr. John Hatton, until recently the medical officer of the Coleford district, which contains a population of 14,883 persons, distributed over an area of 13,609 acres, and for which office he had been in receipt of about £80 a year. In the course of a very able and very eloquent speech, which did credit to his head and heart, Mr. Adams pointed out that Mr. Hatton had held his position for thirty-six years without a single complaint having been recorded against his skill and attention; that he was now sixty-six years of age, and utterly prostrated by two paralytic seizures. In spite, however, of the

very powerful appeal made by this gentleman, who gave some interesting details of the amount of work which had been done by Mr. Hatton during his tenure of office, and the statistics he brought forward as to the incidence of this proposed grant upon the rateable value of the union, which is £118,573, whereby he showed that the grant would be covered by a third of a farthing in the pound, it was met by an amendment, moved by Mr. R. Dampier, that the allowance should be £26 a year; which, after being put to the vote, was carried by a majority of nine in a meeting of thirty-five of the guardians.

Whilst sympathising, which we do most cordially, with Mr. Hatton in his affliction, and in the miserable apology for superannuation allowance which the Monmouth Guardians have granted, still it contrasts remarkably with some recent decisions of boards of guardians, who have not only refused superannuation allowance altogether, but, in some instances, have accompanied their denial with most insulting observations, such as that we recorded recently in a Somersetshire Union, where a proposition was gravely made by a guardian, that the applicant should be offered an order for the workhouse; or with cruel injustice, such as we commented on in the Petersfield Union at the time of its occurrence, where an old Poor-law medical officer, of about forty-six years' standing, and who had reached eighty years of age, was denied a superannuation grant altogether.

THE BIRMINGHAM WORKHOUSE.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a subleader in your issue of October 25th, in which you state, in connection with "Medical Relief in the Birmingham Workhouse," that there are three medical residents, viz., Dr. Simpson and two assistants, "to wit, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Chaundy."

Permit me to correct this; I am in no way connected with the Birmingham Workhouse; my post is Medical Officer (a certifying post only) to the Birmingham Test House, and these duties I undertake along with my private practice in the neighbourhood.—I am, etc.,
R. B. CHAUNDY, Mem. Brit. Med. Assoc.
Brampton House, Handsworth, November 5th, 1882.

* * We found our correspondent's name in the Local Government Board's Directory, entered as one of the medical officers, and we quoted it accordingly. We do not see, however, that he ought to be much aggrieved by our unintentional error.

THE SANITARY STATE OF REDDITCH.

THE medical officer of health for Redditch writes to explain, in reference to some recent remarks in these columns as to certain cases of typhoid fever, about which insufficient information was given, that the cases in question were reported to him by the medical man in attendance only shortly before the meeting of the local board, and the time was too short to enable him to obtain sufficient information to make any special remarks on them, as he has hitherto done in all cases of a similar character brought under his notice. This explanation is quite satisfactory, so far as it goes. The medical officer takes occasion to explain that the town is a manufacturing one, and contains about 10,000 inhabitants. The death-rate for the last two years, 1880 and 1881, has been 18.0 and 14.9 respectively. The deaths from zymotic diseases during the same period were 19 and 4. Of the former number 14 were due to diarrhoea, 13 of which were among children under one year of age. As to the latter, all were due to the same cause—three being children, and one a person aged 68. The total number of cases of typhoid fever, during the two years, amounted to one, and of diphtheria two. There have been, it is true, this summer two localised outbreaks of typhoid fever, the cases being exclusively confined to two small collections of houses, of which the general sanitary condition was very bad. No epidemic of scarlet fever or measles has lately prevailed. During the last two years, the local board are credited with having done a great deal of work. "They have carried through a complete sewerage system for the whole district at a considerable cost, and with a great deal of expenditure on their part of time and trouble. They have, besides, recently obtained permission to borrow a large sum of money for the improvement of the roads and footpaths—a work which is to be commenced at once, these two undertakings alone costing upwards of £20,000."

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

BALFOUR MEMORIAL FUND.—The first list of subscriptions has been issued. Among the subscribers are the Chancellor of the University, the Duke of Devonshire, who heads the list with a donation of £250; the Right Hon. S. H. Walpole and the Right Hon. A. J. Beresford-Hope, the members for the University, contribute £21 and £25; the Rev. Coutts Trotter, Fellow of Trinity, £200; the Rev. E. W. Blore, Vice-Master of Trinity, £100; Mr. Dew Smith (Trinity), £100; Mr.

Walter Leaf (Trinity), £100. The total amount of the fund is nearly £6,000.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

WAYNFLETE PROFESSORSHIP OF PHYSIOLOGY.—The electors to this professorship give notice that they intend to proceed to the election of a professor in the present term. The Waynflete Professor of Physiology is to lecture and give instruction in Human and Comparative Physiology with Histology. He will be entitled to the emoluments which, by the statutes of Magdalen College, are appropriated to his professorship—viz., the annual sum of £600, and the proceeds (£200 per annum) of a Fellowship in the College attached to the Chair. The Professor will be subject to the statutes of the College so far as they may concern him, and to the statutes of the University; made or to be made, in reference to professorships in general, and to the Chair of Physiology in particular. Candidates are requested to send in their names and any papers which they may wish to submit to the electors to the Registrar of the University on or before the 18th of November.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen passed their primary examinations in Anatomy and Physiology at a meeting of the Board of Examiners, on the 6th instant, and when eligible will be admitted to the pass examination.

Messrs. John Sykes, Henry Worsley, Lawson Gifford, Stanley M. Roome, Charles H. G. Brown, James E. A. Ferguson, students of the University of Edinburgh; Thomas G. Alexander, Robert R. Hunter, Mark Sharman, Henry H. Ballachee, of Glasgow; Edward Armitage, Richard P. Halliday, John O. Ward, of the Leeds School; William Graham, of the Dublin School; Alfred F. G. Watts, of the Cambridge School; Frank Woods, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; John W. Crowther, of the Birmingham School; Alfred C. A. Packman, of the Sheffield School; and George E. Deamer, of University College.

Four candidates were referred to their anatomical and physiological studies for three months, and one candidate for six months.

The following gentlemen passed on the 7th instant.

Messrs. Oliver R. A. Julian, James R. Forrest, William J. Wordsworth, and Charles Downing, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Robert R. Giddings, George M. Reid, and Upendra Nath Mukerji, of the Edinburgh School; Thomas J. Davis, Thomas H. Sykes, and Thomas M. Angior, of Liverpool; Richard F. Castle, of the Cambridge School; Benjamin R. Johnston, of the Dublin School; Henry J. Butler, of the Leeds School; Leonard W. Burton, of St. Thomas's Hospital; and Frederick Brentnall, of the Manchester School.

Nine were referred for three months.

The following gentlemen passed on the 8th instant.

Messrs. Charles Strickland, Gerald S. Leggatt, Robert H. Barrett, Frederick Sloman, students of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Charles E. Brooke, of the University of Cambridge and St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Robert Denman and Richard G. Silverlock, of Guy's Hospital; John C. Michell, Stephen F. Smith, and Thomas G. Langhorne, of the London Hospital; Walter A. Dun, of Cincinnati; Alfred E. Woods, of St. George's Hospital; William F. Pridham and James E. Roney Grant, of St. Mary's Hospital; J. R. Abraham Bennett, of University College; J. FitzWilliam Howitt, of the Toronto School and Middlesex Hospital; Thomas Leicester, of the Liverpool School and St. Thomas's Hospital; Arthur Prieg, of the Cambridge School and Charing Cross Hospital.

Six candidates were referred to their anatomical and physiological studies for three months.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their Examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, November 2nd, 1882.

Smith, Ebenezer Thomas Ayden, Abbey Street, Bermondsey.
Spencer, Walter, Doughty Street, W.C.
Statham, Reginald Whiteside, St. Peter's Rectory, Walworth.

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

Bafield, Harold William, London Hospital.
Baksh, Raheem, London Hospital.
Jollve, Arthur Dixon, Charing Cross Hospital.
Slader, George William Burgess, Guy's Hospital.

ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.—**DOUBLE QUALIFICATION.**—The following gentlemen passed their first professional examination during the October sittings of the Examiners.

Albert William Beaumont, Cambridge; Samuel Aspinall, Blackburn; Thomas James Randolph Clarkson, Yorkshire; Herbert George Harold Clarkson, Yorkshire; Challoner Clay, Wiltshire; Thomas Alexander Papillon, Berkshire; Alfred Thomas Masters, Dorsetshire; William Griffith Evans, Cardiganshire; Edward Isdale Shiels, St. Louis, U.S.A.; David Anderson, Dollar; Arthur Charles Turner, Derryshire; Joseph Macnab, County Cork; Thomas

Kean, Galway; Henry Edward George Johnson, Liverpool; Herbert Heyworth, Nelson, Lancashire; Thomas Patterson, County Donegal; David Mathewson Navin, Dundee; James Beattie, County Antrim; Smollett Samuel Clerk, Madras; James Donigan, Cork; Richard James Sadleir Wheeler, Clonakilty, Cork; Milton Romanis Callender, South Shields; Thomas Berkeley Martin, Sunderland; Duncan Clark, Argyllshire.

The following gentlemen passed their final examination, and were admitted L.R.C.P. Edinburgh and L.R.C.S. Edinburgh during October and November.

Thomas Ross, Sutherlandshire; John Steell, Poonah; James Munday, Poonah; John Cundell Wood, Sunderland; William Cody, Longford; Millice Culpin, Buntingford; Arthur Keess, Madras; William Waddell, Ballymena; John Foggin, Newcastle-on-Tyne; William Francis Fryer, County Carlow; Robert Griffith Roberts, Liverpool; Jeremiah O'Callaghan, Cork; Denis Scully, Tipperary; John Joseph Tisdall, Mullingar; Edmund Lewis Rowe, York; David Huey, Ballynaries; Henry Green, Manchester; Henry Horbury Preston, Manchester; William Holdsworth, Whitby; William Davidson, Motherwell; Samuel Frazer, County Down; William Stephen Johns, Wells, Norfolk; Daniel Rees Davies, London; Harry Cornelius Edwin Rogers, Plymouth; John Powell, South Wales; Robert Aloysius Hamilton Williams, Dungarvan; Richard Wagner, Poonah; Edwin Douglas, Edinburgh; George Cooper Harrison, Nottingham; James Ross Irwin, County Derry; Samuel Mackay, Letterbratt; William Bedford Silverwood, Shelly, Huddersfield; John Beamish Hamilton, Drogheda; William Morrison Storrar, Aberdeenshire; Alexander Oswald Cowan Watson, Bombay; John Barfield Adams, Carmarthen; Charles Theodore Uvo Babst, Newcastle; William Carden Cousens, Ottawa; Michael Joseph Molony, County Tipperary; Edward Patrick Walsh, Coolnagour; Alexander Brown Murdoch, Elgin; Charles Joseph Blake, County Galway; John Lusk Torrens, County Derry; Daniel Patrick Coady, County Kildare; Walter Frederick de Watteville, Berne, Switzerland; John Richard White, London; John Gorham, Clifden, County Galway.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.—During the October sittings of the examiners, the following gentleman passed his first professional examination.

Joseph Henry Zepero, Trinidad.

The following gentlemen passed their final examination, and were admitted Licentiate of the College.

Alfred Edwin Schmidt, London; Frederick William Kirkham, Tilney, Norfolk; Howard Bennett Fletcher, Lincoln; John Mair Robertson, Galston; William Wilson, Edinburgh; John Logan, Milngavie; John Salter Gettings, Staffordshire; Walter Stannes Snell, Stonehouse, Devon; Creighton Hutchinson, Kilrea; John Robert Clark, Cobourg.

The following gentleman passed his first professional examination for the Licence in Dental Surgery of the College.

William Thomas Elliott, Diss.

The following gentlemen passed their final examination, and were admitted L.D.S.

Joseph Smithson Thomson, Dublin; Henry Blandy, Chesterfield; Hume Purdie, Alford.

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.—At the Autumnal Examinations in the Faculty of Medicine, held recently, the following were the successful candidates for Degrees in Medicine and Surgery and for the Diplomas in Obstetrics.

Degree of M.D. Those marked thus (a) were declared qualified to present themselves at the Honour Examination.—(a) F. E. Adams, C. W. Allport, J. J. Austin, W. S. Barnes, T. G. Bell, (a) Thomas Cromie, Charles Heanen, (a) Mark Jackson, (a) Michael Kelly, (a) J. A. Lindsay, (a) J. M'Murray, (a) W. O'Keefe, J. M. Prendergast, John Riordan, S. A. L. Swan, (a) Daniel White, (a) Charles H. Wise. *Lower Pass Division.*—H. E. Brown, A. B. Chambers, James Cooke, William Gibson, William Good, J. S. Graham, William Graham, William R. Hamilton, A. W. Hathorne, S. D. Henderson, James Henry, J. F. Hunter, R. J. Legge, J. M'Cambridge, Cornelius M'Dermott, L. S. M'Manus, R. H. Mathews, K. M. Moynan, J. Morrison Orr, R. Stafford Smith, James Wilson.

Degree of M.Ch.—M. H. Atock, J. J. Austin, W. S. Barnes, T. G. Bell, J. G. Black, A. B. Chambers, James Craig, Thomas Cromie, P. J. Gallwey, W. Walter Gibson, H. A. Haines, Samuel Hamill, William R. Hamilton, A. W. Hawthorne, Charles Heanen, S. D. Henderson, James Henry, J. Alexander Lindsay, J. M.G. Lithgow, J. M'Cambridge, T. S. M'Connell, C. M'Dermott, J. R. M'Donnell, L. S. M'Manus, J. M'Murray, R. H. Mathews, L. D. Morell, R. M. Moynan, D. V. O'Connell, William O'Keefe, J. M. Prendergast, John Riordan, G. A. Rountree, Daniel White, James Wilson, J. V. Young.

Diploma in Obstetrics.—F. E. Adams, C. W. Allport, A. B. Chambers, Thomas Cromie, William Gibson, H. A. Haines, R. W. S. Lyons, J. M'Murray, C. J. O'L. Maguire, R. H. Mathews, William O'Keefe, J. Moran Prendergast, G. A. Rountree.

The following honours and exhibitions have been awarded by the Senate in the Faculty of Medicine.

M.D. Degree Examination.—First-Class Honours, Charles H. Wise; Second-Class Honours, J. M'Murray, F. E. Adams.

Second Examination in Medicine.—Exhibitions: First-Class, £40 each, James Chambers, Benjamin Hosford; Second-Class, £20, Thomas Grainger, John Kearney, R. B. Gorsuch. First-Class Honours, James Chambers, Benjamin Hosford; Second-Class Honours, Thomas Grainger, John Kearney, R. B. Gorsuch, James Morwood.

First Examination in Medicine.—Exhibitions: Second-Class, £15, T. R. Leonard. First-Class Honours, J. Wilson, T. D. Smith; Second-Class Honours, T. R. Leonard, W. B. M'Quitty.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced :—

- AYRSHIRE DISTRICT ASYLUM, near Ayr, N.B.—Assistant Medical Superintendent. Salary, £80 per annum. Applications to Mr. C. G. Shaw, Clerk to the Board, County Buildings, Ayr, by November 22nd.
- BRADFORD FEVER HOSPITAL.—Resident Medical Superintendent. Salary, £150 per annum. Applications by November 21st.
- CANE HILL ASYLUM, Surrey.—Medical Superintendent. Salary, £700 per annum. Applications by November 20th.
- CORK SOUTH CHARITABLE INFIRMARY AND COUNTY HOSPITAL.—House Surgeon and Apothecary. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications by October 24th.
- DENBIGHSHIRE GENERAL INFIRMARY, Denbigh.—Honorary Dental Surgeon. Applications by December.
- DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON, Leicester Square.—Administrator of Anæsthetics. Applications by November 13th.
- DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON, Leicester Square.—Dental House-Surgeon. Salary, £40 per annum. Applications by November 13th.
- DERBY AMALGAMATED FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—Second Assistant Surgeon. Salary, £130 per annum. Applications to Mr. J. Bullivant, 58, Abbey Street, Derby, by November 15th.
- HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, Soho Square, W.—Assistant-Physician. Applications by November 29th.
- HYDROPATHIC ESTABLISHMENT.—Qualified Medical Man. Applications to M.D., Messrs. Laundry and Co., Chartered Accountants, Birmingham.
- KIDDERMINSTER FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—Senior Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £240 per annum. Applications by December 14th.
- NORTHMAVINE AND DELLING PARISHES, Shetland.—Medical Officer. Salary, £60 per annum. Applications to T. M. Adie, Esq., Voe, Shetland.
- PENNYGOWN AND TOROSAY.—Medical Officer for the Parochial Board. Salary, £60 per annum. Applications to Mr. Alex. McDougall, Inspector of Poor, Auchnacraig-by-Oban.
- POPLAR HOSPITAL FOR ACCIDENTS, Blackwall, E.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications by November 21st.
- RIPON DISPENSARY.—Resident House-Surgeon and Dispenser. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications to be sent forthwith.
- SELF-AIDING DISPENSARY, Grantham.—Dispenser. Salary, £80 per annum. Applications to be sent to W. V. Hardwick, Secretary, Grantham.
- ST. GEORGE'S AND ST. JAMES'S DISPENSARY.—Physician, and Physician for the Diseases of Women and Children. Applications to the Committee of Management, No. 60, King Street, Golden Square, W., by November 29th.
- THREE TOWNS FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—Two Resident Medical Officers. Salary, £180 each per annum. Applications to W. Curtis, Secretary, 69, Charlotte Street, Morice Town, Devonport, by November 15th.
- WANDSWORTH AND CLAPHAM UNION.—Assistant Medical Officer and Dispenser. Salary, £120 per annum. Applications by November 11th.
- WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL, Broad Sanctuary, S.W.—Junior House-Physician. Applications by November 25th.
- WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL, Broad Sanctuary, S.W.—Resident Obstetric Assistant. Applications by November 23rd.
- WOLVERHAMPTON AND STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL, Wolverhampton.—House-Physician. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications by December 4th.
- WOLVERHAMPTON AND STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL, Wolverhampton.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications by December 4th.
- YORK COUNTY HOSPITAL.—Honorary Physician. Applications by December 8th.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

- ATKINSON, George Armstrong, M.B., C.M., appointed Resident Physician to the University Wards, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.
- BARR, T., M.D., appointed Aurist to the Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow.
- BETH, Robert, M.B., appointed Resident Medical Assistant in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.
- BREBETON, J. T., F.R.C.S., appointed Resident Medical Officer to the Scarborough Friendly Societies' Medical Association, *vice* J. Stewart, L.R.C.P., resigned.
- CAMERON, H. C., M.D., appointed Surgeon to the Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow.
- CARDEN, J. C., L.R.C.P.Ed., appointed Medical Officer to the Milnthorpe Workhouse, and District and Public Vaccinator, *vice* O. N. Royle, M.D., resigned.
- CHISHOLM, J. M., M.A., M.D., appointed Visiting Physician to the Liverpool Convalescent Hospital, Wootton.
- COATS, J., M.D., appointed Pathologist to the Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow.
- CROSS, F. Richardson, F.R.C.S., appointed Surgeon to the Bristol Eye Hospital.
- DUNLOP, H. Melville, M.B. and C.M., appointed Resident Physician to the Sick Children's Hospital, Edinburgh, *vice* Skene Keith, M.B. and C.M., resigned.
- FINLAYSON, J., M.D., appointed Physician to the Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow.
- FLEMING, W. J., M.D., appointed Extra-Surgeon to the Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow.
- GEMMELL, S., M.D., appointed Extra-Physician to the Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow.
- GOFF, John, M.B., appointed Resident Surgical Assistant in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

- HARDIE, James, M.D., Senior Assistant-Surgeon, appointed Surgeon to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, *vice* Edward Lund, F.R.C.S., resigned.
- HOOD, A. J., M.B., appointed Resident Surgical Assistant in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.
- KIDD, Dr. Percy, appointed Pathologist and Curator to the Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Brompton.
- LEISHMAN, W., M.D., appointed Physician to the Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow.
- MACWEN, W., M.D., appointed Surgeon to the Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow.
- MACLEHOSE, N. M., M.B., appointed Resident Surgical Assistant in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.
- MARSHALL, John N., M.B., appointed Resident Medical Assistant in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.
- MASTER, George R., M.R.C.S., appointed Surgeon to the Jenny Lind Infirmary for Sick Children, Norwich, *vice* C. Firth, M.B., F.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.
- PATULLO, William, M.B., appointed Resident Medical Assistant in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.
- PRICE, R., L.D.S., appointed Dentist to the Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow.
- RAMSAY, A. M., M.B., appointed Resident Medical Assistant in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.
- REID, T., M.D., appointed Oculist to the Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow.
- RENTON, J. Crawford, M.D.Ed., appointed Surgeon to the Dispensary of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.
- STEWART, Charles W., M.B., appointed Resident Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.
- STEWART, R. S., appointed Resident Surgical Assistant in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.
- WALKER, W. H. S., L.K.Q.C.P.I., appointed Resident Medical Officer to the Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow.

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.

BIRTHS.

- WHEELER.—On the 4th instant, at Pembroke Gardens, W., the wife of John Wheeler, M.D. and C.M., of a daughter.
- WILLIAMS.—On October 30th, at Port Isaac, Cornwall, the wife of Charles Williams, medical officer of the district, of a son.
- MARTIN.—On the 21st October, 1882, at 6, Roseneath Villas, Military Road, Cork, the wife of Surgeon J. Martin, Army Medical Department, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

- BALLARD.—PITT.—On the 7th instant, at Wellesbourne, Warwick, by the Rev. Richard Warcup Pitt, cousin of the bride, assisted by the Rev. Thos. M. Hughes, Philip Ballard, L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S.Eng., of Walford House, Smarden, Kent, to Emily Elizabeth Pitt, youngest daughter of Richard Pitt, Surgeon, Wellesbourne.

HEALTH OF FOREIGN CITIES.—Statistics, published in the Registrar-General's last weekly return, show that the death-rate in the three principal Indian cities recently averaged 29.0 per 1000; it was equal to 26.3 in Calcutta, 27.1 in Bombay, and 35.0 in Madras. Small-pox caused 5 deaths in Madras, and fever mortality, excessive in each of these Indian cities, was proportionally greatest in Madras. According to the most recent weekly returns, the average annual death-rate per 1000 persons, estimated to be living in twenty-one of the largest European cities, was equal to 24.4; this rate exceeded by 3.1 the average rate last week in the twenty-eight large English towns. The death-rate in St. Petersburg was equal to 42.1, and showed an increase upon the declining rates in recent weeks; the 541 deaths in this city included 47 from diarrhoea and 24 from scarlet fever. In three other northern cities—Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Christiania—the death-rate averaged only 17.3; it was but 14.1 in Christiania, while the highest rate was 18.5 in Stockholm, enteric fever causing 3 deaths both in Copenhagen and Stockholm. The Paris death-rate was equal to 23.1, showing a further decline from the rates in recent weeks; the fatal cases of typhoid fever, which had been 244 and 173 in the two previous weeks, further declined to 125 last week. The 31 deaths from diphtheria, however, showed a slight increase. The 144 deaths in Brussels were equal to a rate of 18.2; one fatal case of small-pox was recorded. No return is published from Geneva. In the three principal Dutch cities—Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and the Hague—the mean death-rate was 20.2, the highest being 21.8 in Amsterdam; small-pox caused 2 deaths in Rotterdam and "fevers" 2 in Amsterdam. The Registrar-General's table includes nine German and Austrian cities, in which the death-rate averaged 24.0, and ranged from 19.7 and 21.7 in Hamburg and Vienna, to 28.4 and 29.0 in Breslau and Prague. Small-pox caused 5 deaths in Buda-Pesth, and diphtheria showed fatal prevalence in Munich, Trieste, and Dresden. The mean death-rate in three of the largest Italian cities was 25.7, the highest rates being 27.7 in Naples and 31.3 in Venice; typhoid fever caused 5 deaths in Turin. In the four large American cities, the death-rate averaged 21.7, and ranged from 17.3 in Philadelphia to 22.5 in Baltimore. Small-pox caused 12 deaths in Baltimore and typhoid fever 12 in Philadelphia; and diphtheria fatality was excessive in both these cities.

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 (Ophthalmic Department), 2 P.M.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.

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

HOURS OF ATTENDANCE AT THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

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

GUY'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, exc. Tu, 1.30; Obstetric, M, W, F., 1.30; Eye, M, W., 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., 1; 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, 1.45; Obstetric, Tu, F., 9.30; o.p., Tu, F., 2; Eye, Tu, F., 9.15; Ear, M, Th., 2; Skin, Tu, Th., 1.30; Throat, M, Th., 1.45; 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, T, 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., 3; Eye, M, Th., 2.30; Ear, Tu, F., 9; Skin, Th., 1; Dental, W, S., 9.15.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Richardson: On Ammoniated Chloroform as a Preservative of Animal Tissues. Mr. J. Knowsley Thornton: Three Cases of successful Nephrectomy, with Remarks on Operation.

TUESDAY.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Vacy Lyle of Durban: On the Endemic Hematuria of the South-east Coast of Africa. The paper will be illustrated by specimens of the Bilharzia Haematobia exhibited by Dr. Cobbold and Dr. Radcliffe Crocker. Mr. A. P. Thomas, M.A., of Oxford, will exhibit drawings and microscopic preparations, and make some remarks on his discovery of the Life-History of the Liver Fluke, and its introduction into the Bodies of Sheep. Dr. Cobbold will also exhibit specimens of the various forms of Fluke from Man, the Elephant, and the Giraffe. Flat and Nematode Worms will be exhibited by Dr. Bastian, and illustrated with models and drawings by Professor Ray Lankester. Dr. Stephen Mackenzie will show the Filaria Sanguinis Hominis from Human Blood, and also from the Stomach of the Mosquito.

THURSDAY.—Harveian Society of London, 8.30 P.M. The Report of the Alcohol Committee. Dr. Francis: The Treatment of Neuralgia.

FRIDAY.—Society of Medical Officers of Health, 7.30 P.M. Mr. Rogers Field: Some of the less recognised but important points in the Drainage and Ventilation of Houses.

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 161A, Strand, W.C., London; those concerning business matters, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 161A, Strand, W.C., London.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, are requested to communicate beforehand with the Manager, 161A, Strand, W.C.

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

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

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

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

A MEDICAL BENEFIT SOCIETY.

SIR,—The British Medical Association has already done much for the profession; let it confer one more boon on its thousands of members by establishing a sick fund.

As medical officers to benefit societies, we have daily evidence of the advantages the labouring and artisan classes, Odd Fellows and Foresters, have over the poor professional man when disabled by illness. We can assure in life and accidental assurance offices, but how are many of us to weather an attack of prolonged illness? What is to become of us if permanently incapacitated? The organisation of the association is so complete, that but little difficulty would arise in working a medical benefit society, once it were fairly floated.

Every candidate for admission would have to be in sound health, and the annual subscription would depend on his age on entering. Will you, sir, do something to rouse us from our apathy on this subject, and cause us to direct a little of our hospital and dispensary fervour to ourselves?—Believe me, sir, your obedient servant,

G. J. MALCOLM SMITH, M.B. Edin.

Hurstpierpoint, October 30th, 1882.

SIR,—In answer to several gentlemen who have written to me on the above subject, I beg to say that I still adhere to my original statement, viz., that two guineas per annum would be sufficient subscription to allow a man £10 a week during an ordinary illness. I would certainly place a limit to the time a man is ill; but that, and all details, would have to be decided by a committee. As far as I can see, the thing could be easily worked, and divided into branches if necessary. The expenses would not be heavy. One gentleman suggested that the sick-pay should be in proportion to the amount of annual subscription. But I think it would be fairer to treat all alike; and if any can and would like to subscribe more, let it be placed to the "widows and orphans" branch, or "burial fund" branch.

I think, if the "club" were started, many of the leading consulting men (if not all), who have already feathered their nests, would swell the funds by being honorary members, and subscribing annually. There is no doubt that such an institution is badly wanted, and hundreds would be glad of the boon; and each branch would take care to elect such men that would look after the interests of the "club", and see that it was not abused.

Now, as to the question as to whether it would pay. Presume 1,000 men in one branch join, at £2 2s. a year; that makes a fund at once of £2,200. Suppose, out of that, 20 men (a large percentage?) are totally disabled for six weeks, that would draw £1,200, leaving them £1,000 in the funds. If this would not be enough for the expenses, I should imagine the club was being worked extravagantly. As regards myself, I think the importance of the club so great, that I would subscribe three or four guineas a year to it gladly. Hoping to see it soon in working order, I am, faithfully yours,

A. H. BOYS.

Pill, near Bristol.

F. J. A. asks in what works, or from whom, he can ascertain the normal temperatures of the cow, rabbit, guinea-pig, frog, etc.

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF PRISONS.

SIR,—I enclose copy of two circulars sent to the governors of local prisons, which will show how little cause for satisfaction can be derived from the evasive letter to Sir Walter Buchanan from the Home Secretary.

Had I been able to attend the Worcester meeting of the Association, it was my intention to invite all prison medical officers, who could conveniently do so, to meet and quietly discuss the subject of these circulars.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

M.D.

"Circular 10,284.

Copy (61).

"Prison Department, Home Office, Whitehall, August 6th, 1881.
"Referring to clause 45 of the Prison Act 1865, Governors are requested, whenever an inquest is about to be held, to inquire of the Coroner whether a *post mortem* examination is to be made; and, if he should reply in the affirmative, to inform him that the Secretary of State wishes such examination to be made by a medical practitioner not connected with the Prison Service, and request him to give the necessary instruction to the person he may select to perform that duty.—(Signed) R. ANDERSON, Secretary."

"Circular 8998

Copy (129).

"Prison Department, Home Office, June 21st, 1882.
"With reference to my circular of August 6th, 1881, requesting Governors to inquire of the Coroner, whenever an inquest is about to be held, whether a *post mortem* examination is to be made, and, in the event of the reply being in the affirmative, to inform him that the Secretary of State wishes such examination to be made by a medical man unconnected with the Prison Service; the Commissioners wish to be assured that all coroners have, in every case, fully understood the Secretary of State's wishes in this matter; and I am to request that Governors will, for this purpose, put themselves in communication with the coroners in their several jurisdictions, and forward their replies when received.—(Signed) R. ANDERSON."

NORRIS should consult the works of Drs. Sydney Ringer, Lauder Brunton, Royle, Thorowgood, and Whittia, for systematic information on the latest discoveries in therapeutics. All these works are issued by London publishers.