

MEDICAL SICKNESS, ANNUITY, AND LIFE-ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Statement of the Finances of the Society; its Reserves; its Payments to Members; its Stability.

THE monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of this Society was held on Wednesday last, December 9th, at 38, Wimpole Street, Mr. ERNEST HART (Chairman of the Society) presiding. There were present: Mr. Ernest Hart, Mr. S. W. Sibley, Mr. E. Noble Smith, Dr. W. Clibborn, Mr. E. Bartlett, Mr. Major Greenwood, jun., and Mr. F. Wallace.

Letters regretting inability to attend were read from Dr. W. M. Ord, Dr. De Havilland Hall, and Mr. Vincent Jackson (Wolverhampton).

The certificates were produced for a further sum of £1,400, cash balance of reserves, which had been invested in Wolverhampton Corporation Bonds, in the names of the trustees, Sir Spencer Wells, Bart., Mr. J. R. Upton, Mr. Ernest Hart, and Dr. W. M. Ord. This brought the amount of the invested reserves up to £7,174, which had been formed since March 1st, 1884, up to date, a period of eighteen months in all.

The general statement of the affairs of the Society showed a very satisfactory position. There was a steady influx of new members, and the total number who had joined since the foundation (one year and eight months) was 720, while the percentage of lapses was a very small one. The annuity fund was rapidly increasing in its due proportions. The life-assurance fund was also growing. The amount of interest on the reserve fund, periodically added to the reserve, would soon become an important item in the receipts.

The first life-assurance claim had just been received, being for £100. Arrangements were made to pay the claim immediately on the necessary legal proof.

The most active part of the work, however, was that of the sickness-fund, now in full operation. From this, over £1,500 had already been paid on account of a considerable number of illnesses and several accidents. The claimants were of widely varied ages, and living in various localities; amounts having been forwarded to Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and distant parts of England. While this useful work had been done, the fund had been growing rapidly, and had now an adequate and increasing reserve capital of over £4,000. The sickness, too, although more than sufficient to demonstrate the need for, and the beneficial influence of, the Society's operations, was thus far less than that allowed for by the actuary in calculating the tables.

With reference to the stability of the Society—a point of great importance to the members and its well-wishers—that was already fully assured; and, upon the completion of its second year of existence, after having defrayed the whole cost of starting and organisation, there would be a funded capital of £10,000 in hand, bearing interest. While the working expenses of the Society had been much less than were estimated and allowed for, the interest secured on the reserves was better than that anticipated in the tables. While 3 per cent. only was counted upon, the actual working produced nearly 3½ per cent., on first-class securities, approved by the trustees. The financial position of the Society was much strengthened by the economy of its management; for, while 10 per cent. of the premium income was allowed for this expenditure, only about half this amount was used, owing to no fees being received by the committee, or payments made for anything but absolutely necessary office-work. The effect of this had been an actual saving of nearly £700 under this head alone, which stood to the Society's credit, and added to its accumulated reserves.

Mr. ERNEST HART said that the evidences of the financial stability of the Association were on the face of the reported facts. The reserves were already very large in amount, and in excess of the actuarial estimate; on the other hand, the claims were within the estimate, and the expenses were much less than those which had been allowed, and were within their financial limit. The invested capital of over £7,000, accumulated within eighteen months, was an eloquent fact; and he was informed that the successful progress of the Society had been beyond ordinary anticipation, and was regarded with great interest and satisfaction among actuaries. The usefulness of the Society to the profession had been signally shown by its numerous payments to sick members. Several members who had been unexpectedly afflicted had been carried through severe trials, which would otherwise have overwhelmed them. One or two, for a merely nominal payment, had, during prolonged periods of complete incapacity from sudden and severe illnesses or accidents, not to be anticipated or guarded against, received as much as £100 each. The extension of the Society afforded to members of the profession, by means of moderate payments, the means of

providing against accident and sickness. The sickness-assurance met a want which no other Society ever touched, and its effect was most beneficial. He directed attention to the value of the annuity and insurance department. The first insurance claim was made this week—a death from typhoid fever, at the age of 39—and was a striking example of the beneficent working of the Society. It was a valuable feature that, under the tables, all payments from members ceased after the age of 65, when earning power was apt to diminish. The Society was in a state of vigorous health.

Full particulars, prospectuses, proposal-forms, and copies of the annual report, may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Mr. C. J. Radley, 26, Wynne Road, Brixton, S.W.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 1886. ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

ANY qualified medical practitioner, not disqualified by any by-law of the Association, who shall be recommended as eligible by any three members, may be elected a member by the Council or by any recognised Branch Council.

Meetings of the Council will be held on January 20th, April 14th, July 14th, and October 20th, 1886. Candidates for election by the Council of the Association must send in their forms of application to the General Secretary, not later than twenty-one days before each meeting, namely, December 30th, 1885, and March 25th, June 24th, and September 30th, 1886.

Candidates seeking election by a Branch Council should apply to the secretary of the Branch. No member can be elected by a Branch Council, unless his name has been inserted in the circular summoning the meeting at which he seeks election.

FRANCIS FOWKE, General Secretary.

COLLECTIVE INVESTIGATION OF DISEASE.

THE inquiry on CHOREA is now closed, the tabulation of the returns being completed.

Inquiries are in progress on the subjects of

DIPHTHERIA, ACUTE RHEUMATISM,
OLD AGE, CANCER OF THE BREAST.

Memoranda on the above, and forms for recording individual cases, may be had on application.

It is requested that returns on Acute Rheumatism be sent in at as early a date as possible, as the printing of the Tables is in progress.

The greater part of the "Old Age" form may be filled in by a non-medical person, if necessary.

The Committee are also glad to receive reports of cases of the following conditions, memoranda and forms for which are prepared. PAROXYSMAL HEMOGLOBINURIA, ALBUMINURIA IN THE APPARENTLY HEALTHY, SLEEP-WALKING, ACUTE GOUT. Returns on ACUTE PNEUMONIA are still received.

The "Sleep-walking" form may be filled in by a non-medical person if necessary.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—The Committee will be glad to receive reports of cases illustrative of the points mentioned in the JOURNAL of January 31st, 1885 (p. 249). Separate copies of the article and questions alluded to will be forwarded on application.

THE CONNECTION OF DISEASE WITH HABITS OF INTEMPERANCE.—A schedule of inquiry upon this subject has been prepared by the Committee, and was issued with the JOURNAL of May 9th. Replies are requested on the schedule issued with the JOURNAL of May 9th. Additional copies of the schedule may be had at once on application.

THE ETIOLOGY OF PHTHISIS.—Continuation of inquiry. The Committee will be glad to receive the names of gentlemen willing to engage in joint investigation of any of the following points in relation to the origin of cases of Phtthisis;—(a) The influence of residence and occupation; (b) the previous state of the patients' thoracic organs and general health; (c) heredity and communication. Full particulars will be sent on application.

Application for forms, memoranda, or further information, may be made to any of the Honorary Local Secretaries, or to the Secretary of the Collective Investigation Committee, 161a, Strand, W.C.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

SOUTH INDIAN BRANCH.—Meetings are held in the Medical College, Madras, on the first Friday in the month, at 4.30 p.m. Gentlemen desirous of reading papers or exhibiting specimens are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary, —J. MAITLAND, M.B., Honorary Secretary, Madras.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.—An intermediate meeting of the Branch will be held at the Mechanics' Institute, Church Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, on Wednesday, December 16th, 1886, at 2.30 p.m. The following papers and communications have been promised. Dr. Cullingworth: Two cases of Abdominal Section for the removal of small intrapelvic tumours of the ovaries and adjacent parts. Dr. Inlach: On Pelvic Hematocèle. Dr. Dreschfeld: On Alcoholic Paralysis. Dr. Wm. Armstrong will read a paper on the urgent need for Systematic Medical Defence, and will propose the following resolution:—"That, in the opinion of this Branch, it is desirable that a Medical Defence Society should be formed in connection with the British Medical Association." Dr. Ross: On Aphasia, with cases. Mr. G. A. Wright: On some forms of Obstruction of the Nasal Passages. Dr. Walter will also show a Polypoid Growth removed from the Cervix Uteri. Luncheon will be provided at the Wheat Sheaf Hotel by the members of the Branch resident in Ashton from 1 to 2.30 p.m. Dinner at the Wheat Sheaf Hotel, Stamford Street, Ashton, at 5.30 p.m. Tickets (exclusive of wine) 6s. each.—**CHARLES EDWARD GLASCOCK, M.D.**, Honorary Secretary, 23, Saint John Street, Manchester.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT.—The next meeting of the above District will be held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham, on Friday, December 18th, at 3 p.m.; J. Langston, Esq., J.P., in the chair. The dinner will take place at The Bull Hotel, Rochester, at 5.30 p.m.; charge 6s., exclusive of wine. Gentlemen who intend to dine are particularly requested to signify their intention to the Honorary Secretary of the District not later than December 16th. Papers to be read: 1. Dr. J. V. Bell, Two Cases of Trephining. 2. F. B. Jessett, Esq., Plastic Operations for Restoration of Upper Lip after Removal of Epithelioma. 3. Dr. H. Lewis Jones, Clinical Notes of Empyema. All members of the South-Eastern Branch are entitled to attend this meeting, and to introduce friends.—**A. W. NANKIVELL**, Honorary Secretary.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: NORTHERN DISTRICT.—The next meeting of the session 1886-6 will be held at the Athenæum, Camden Road, N., on Friday, December 18th, at 8.30 p.m.; Dr. Dickson, President of the Branch, in the chair. Mr. H. T. Butlin will read a paper on Prevention and Cure of Cancer. A discussion will follow. All members are invited, and may each introduce a medical friend.—**GEORGE HENTY, M.D.**, Honorary Secretary, 302, Camden Road, N.

ABERDEEN, BANFF, AND KINCARDINE BRANCH.—The next meeting of this Branch will be held at 198, Union Street, Aberdeen, on Wednesday, December 16th, at 8 p.m.; Professor Ogston in the chair. Agenda—Professor Dyce Davidson: On Congenital Blindness from Pigmentary Retinitis and Optic Atrophy. Dr. Frank Ogston: On some Uses of Ergotine. Dr. Mackenzie Davidson: On some New Ophthalmic Instruments. Specimens by Drs. Williamson, Urquhart, and Mackenzie Booth.—**ROBERT JOHN GARDEN, J. MACKENZIE BOOTH**, Honorary Secretaries.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH.—The winter meeting of this Branch will be held on Friday, January 8th, 1887, at the County Hotel, Carlisle. The chair will be taken at 6 p.m. by Mr. C. S. Hall, President. The Secretary will be glad to receive notices of papers, and morbid specimens for exhibition, or patients, without delay. Supper will be provided in the hotel at 9 o'clock. Members from a distance can be taken in for the night by communicating with the Secretary, H. A. LEDIARI, Carlisle.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The fifty-fourth Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Brighton, on August 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th, 1886.

President: W. T. Edwards, M.D., F.R.C.S., Physician to the Glamorgan and Monmouth Infirmary, Cardiff.

President-elect: Withers Moore, M.D., F.R.C.P., Senior Physician to the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

An Address in Medicine will be delivered by Austin Flint, M.D., New York.

An Address in Surgery will be delivered by Frederick Abell Humphry, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Sussex County Hospital.

An Address in Public Health will be given by Edward Dillon Mapother, M.D., Consulting Medical Officer to the City of Dublin.

The scientific business of the meeting will be conducted in nine Sections, as follows, namely:

MEDICINE.—**President,** W. H. Broadbent, M.D. **Vice-Presidents,** Frederick Bagshawe, M.D., Hastings; Joseph Ewart, M.D., Brighton. **Honorary Secretaries,** Francis Warner, M.D., 24, Harley Street, London; Henry Seymour Branfoot, M.B., 42, Norfolk Square, Brighton.

SURGERY.—**President,** John Eric Erichsen, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., London. **Vice-Presidents,** Frederick William Jowers, M.R.C.S., Brighton; John Ward Cousins, F.R.C.S., Southsea. **Honorary Secretaries,** William Johnson Walsham, F.R.C.S., 27, Weymouth Street, London; Wiloughby Furner, F.R.C.S., 2, Brunswick Place, Brighton.

OBSTETRIC MEDICINE.—**President,** Alfred Meadows, M.D., London. **Vice-Presidents,** Constantine Holman, M.D., Reigate; Frederick W. Salzmann, M.R.C.S., Brighton. **Honorary Secretaries,** Charles J. Wright, M.R.C.S., Lynton Villa, Virginia Road, Leeds; Alban Doran, F.R.C.S., 9, Granville Place, W.

PUBLIC MEDICINE.—**President,** Richard Patrick B. Taaffe, M.D., Brighton. **Vice-Presidents,** Sir Charles Alexander Cameron, M.R.C.P., Dublin; Charles Kelly, M.D., Worthing. **Honorary**

Secretaries, W. Brown, M.R.C.P. Edin., Carlisle; William Joseph Tyson, M.D., Folkestone.

PSYCHOLOGY.—**President,** Thomas Smith Clouston, M.D., Edinburgh. **Vice-Presidents,** Charles A. Lockhart Robertson, M.D., Brighton; Joseph Raymond Gasquet, M.B., Brighton. **Honorary Secretaries,** Charles Spencer Waller Cobbold, M.D., Earlswood Asylum, Redhill; James M. Moody, M.R.C.S., Surrey County Asylum, Cane-hill, Purley.

PATHOLOGY.—**President,** Julius Dreschfeld, M.D., Manchester. **Vice-Presidents,** James Frederick Goodhart, M.D., London; Heneage Gibbs, M.D., London. **Honorary Secretaries,** John E. Ranking, M.D., Mount Ephraim Road, Tunbridge Wells; John Caldwell Uthoff, M.D., 9, Brunswick Place, Brighton.

THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACOLOGY.—**President,** Thomas Lauder Brunton, M.D., F.R.S., London. **Vice-Presidents,** John Mitchell Bruce, M.D., London; Edward Mackey, M.D., Brighton. **Honorary Secretaries,** Cornelius William Suckling, M.D., 108, Newhall Street, Birmingham; John Theodore Cash, M.D., Drumsarn, Earlsfield Road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.

OPHTHALMOLOGY.—**President,** Chas. Oldham, F.R.C.S., Brighton. **Vice-Presidents,** Louis Tosswill, M.B., Exeter; George Anderson Critchett, F.R.C.S. Edin., London. **Honorary Secretaries,** Frank Henry Hodges, F.R.C.S. Edin., 17, Horse Fair Street, Leicester; Arthur Nicholson, M.D., 98, Montpellier Road, Brighton.

OTOLOGY.—**President,** G. F. Hodgson, M.R.C.S., Brighton. **Vice-Presidents,** Alphonso Elkin Cumberbatch, F.R.C.S., London; Edward Cresswell Baber, M.B., Brighton. **Honorary Secretaries,** Henry Albert Reeves, F.R.C.S. Edin., 6, Grosvenor Street, W., London; Patrick William Maxwell, M.D. Edin., 10, Lower Mount Street, Dublin.

Honorary Local Secretary: Thomas Jenner Verrall, M.R.C.S., 95, Western Road, Brighton.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10TH, 1886.

2 P.M.—Meeting of 1885-6 Council.

3 P.M.—General Meeting. Report of Council and other business. Adjourn at 5 P.M.

8 P.M.—General Meeting. President's Address, and any business adjourned from meeting at 3 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11TH, 1886.

9.30 A.M.—Meeting of 1886-87 Council.

11.0 A.M.—Second General Meeting. Address in Medicine.

2 to 5 P.M.—Sectional Meetings.

8 P.M.—A Conversation.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12TH, 1886.

9.30 A.M.—Meeting of Council.

11 A.M.—Third General Meeting. Address in Surgery.

2 to 5 P.M.—Sectional Meetings.

6.30 P.M.—Public Dinner.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13TH, 1886.

10 A.M.—Address in Public Medicine.

11 A.M.—Sectional Meetings.

4 P.M.—Concluding General Meeting.

8 P.M.—Reception.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14TH.

Excursions.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Poisoning from Eating Mussels.—Poisoning from Tinned, and from Bad Fresh Meat and Fish.—Bolds as a Narcotic.—A New Adhesive Plaster.—Death of M. Rabuteau.—The Secularising of Paris Hospitals.—The Health of Nice.

DR. DUBOISQUET LABORDÉRIE has recently published a case of poisoning from eating mussels. The patient was an itinerant dealer in vegetables; he was seized one night with violent pain in the mouth and pharynx, and respiration became difficult. The patient sat up or walked about all the night. The buccal mucous membrane and the tonsils were excessively red, and the tongue was white. Diarrhoea and vomiting set in during the night; the neck became stiff and tender; the heart and lungs were perfectly normal, and all symptoms of gastric disturbance were absent. The patient, two years ago, had an attack of multi-articular rheumatism. The evening before he was taken ill, he had eaten plentifully of mussels. M. Labordérie remembered the connection between urticaria and rheumatism, noted by M. Potain in a clinical lecture, but admitted the possibility that his patient was suffering from urticaria, provoked by eating mussels. He prescribed an emetic, and a draught containing

funded, to be had of all booksellers, or of the Income-Tax Repayment Agency, 16, Artesian Road, W.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
ALFRED CHAPMAN.

MEDICO-LEGAL AND MEDICO-ETHICAL.

WEST LONDON MEDICAL AID INSTITUTE.

IN the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, November 28th, p. 1041, we commented on certain facts with regard to the foundation of the West London Medical Aid Institute. We are informed that, at a meeting of the Council of the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society, a resolution was passed to the effect that the Institute was a private dispensary. Mr. Philip Birch informs us that he has addressed a letter to the honorary secretary of the Society, pointing out (1) that he has received no notification that his conduct was to be called in question; (2) that as the resolution was not on the agenda, and did not arise from the minutes of the last meeting, it was out of order; (3) that the Council of the Society have reversed their previous decision that the West London Medical Aid Institute was not a private dispensary carried on for the personal gain of the medical staff, and have done this without attempting to ascertain the true facts of the case. He contends that this decision is capricious, as the Committee of the Institute passed a resolution "that the appointment of the medical staff shall rest with the committee alone, who shall have power to regulate the duties of, to add to, or remove any member from, according as the duly considered interests of the Institute shall require; that the services of the medical officers shall remain gratuitous until, in the opinion of the Committee, the finances of the Institute will satisfactorily allow some remuneration to be given, and the committee shall then decide upon the amount and plan of such remuneration. Mr. Birch resigns his membership of the Society, while protesting that he has not broken its laws. The facts do not at all alter the opinion expressed on November 28th. The Council of the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society have apparently acted with some irregularity, and, as Mr. Birch points out, ought to apply this interpretation of their rules impartially to all the members of the Society, for the West London Medical Aid Institute stands upon exactly the same footing as other similar so-called provident dispensaries.

AN ETHICAL QUESTION.

SIR,—Will you kindly give your opinion on the following case? A. and Z. are professional neighbours. M. has been, for ten years or more, a patient of A., and is now, and has been for some weeks, consulting him for more or less chronic dyspepsia. About a fortnight ago, M. called on Z. (with whom he was slightly acquainted), saying he believed he had contracted gonorrhoea, and would be glad if Z. would treat him for it. Z., knowing M.'s relations with A., declines, and advises him to consult his own medical man. M. replies that his private connections with A. are such as to make it impossible for him to consult him in such a matter; and if Z. will not attend him, he must go without treatment. Argument failed to alter his resolution; and, in the end, Z. treated the case, but gratuitously. 1. Was Z. right in undertaking the treatment? 2. If he was, should he have made a charge? 3. In case A.'s suspicions become aroused (as Z. already fears is the case), what may Z. do to justify himself short of betraying M.'s confidence?—Faithfully yours,
ILLE EGO.

* The position of Z., under the circumstances related, is undoubtedly an awkward one, and, moreover, difficult to advise on. One point, however, is clear, namely, that the secret confidentially communicated by M. must be alike honourably maintained by Z. In regard to the first question submitted by our correspondent, looking at it in its several bearings, and, at the same time, admitting the motive and intent to have been good, we are, nevertheless, of opinion that Z. erred in undertaking the treatment. To the second question, we reply that, while appreciating the reason why he was induced to "treat the case gratuitously," we think that to dispense with fees from the well-to-do is a default of duty both to the patient and to the profession, and especially in such a case, in which an arrangement might well have been made for a cheque to be sent to some benevolent institution, the British Medical Benevolent Fund, for instance, or a local charity, preferably the former. To effectively advise on the third question, with an imperfect knowledge of the attendant circumstances, is a matter of greater difficulty than we care to attempt, and are, therefore, of necessity constrained to limit our advice to a few suggestions, which we will communicate by private note.

THE ETIQUETTE OF NEW COMERS.

DIFFIDENT.—In replying to "Diffident," we deem it well to remark that the answers to correspondents (the bearing of which he seems to have misunderstood) which have recently appeared in the JOURNAL on the subject of "professional" etiquette, do not apply to one in the position of a retired non-practising fleet-surgeon, in whose case the etiquette of ordinary social life is strictly and solely applicable. "Medical" etiquette differs from that of society at large, in so far as that, on commencing or changing the locality of practice, it entails on such members of the profession the obligation to call upon the duly qualified legitimate medical practitioners resident within a reasonable distance of his own

selected place of abode, and courteously announce his intention to practise in the locality. We would further observe that practising members of the faculty are "not," as incorrectly assumed by our correspondent, "in all cases debarred from making first calls," for, in his own case, it would be right and in perfect accord with medical and social rule for the local practitioners to call upon him in the first instance, as a retired fleet-surgeon. Such we believe to be the simple conventional distinction of "medical" etiquette in the case of acting and retired practitioners.

CHARGES TO WIDOWS OF MEDICAL MEN.

SIR,—Would you oblige me by saying if it is in accordance with professional etiquette for a medical practitioner to charge for attendance on the widow of a medical man who is in business on her own account, and who, in the ordinary course of her business, is in receipt of considerable sums from the medical attendant?—Yours truly,
DELTA.

Our correspondent will be able to glean the desired information from the following rule, which was submitted to and approved by the late Sir Thomas Watson and other eminent representative practitioners, and is extracted from the new edition of the *Code of Medical Ethics* now in the course of publication.

"1. All legitimate practitioners of medicine, their wives, and children while under parental care, are entitled (not as a matter of right, but) by professional courtesy, to the reasonable and gratuitous services—railway and like expenses excepted—of the faculty resident in their immediate neighbourhood, whose assistance may be desired. In the case, also, of near relatives who are more or less dependent upon a professional brother (other than wealthy), it will likewise be well, at his request, to forego or to modify the usual fee. On the other hand, a son or daughter altogether independent of the father—or the widow and children of a practitioner left in affluent or well-to-do circumstances—should be charged as ordinary patients, unless feelings of friendship, or other special reasons, render the attendant practitioner averse to professional remuneration; in such case, the rule need not apply. Moreover, if a wealthy member of the faculty seeks professional advice, and courteously urges the acceptance of a fee, it should not be declined, for no pecuniary obligation ought to be imposed on the debtor, which the debtor himself would not wish to incur."

C. J., M.B.M.A.—The rights of the members of a benefit society depend on the rules of the particular society to which they belong. It certainly seems a harsh proceeding to refuse sick pay to a man because the society's medical officer refuses to give a certificate, and probably a court of law might award some compensation to the man who has been deprived of his pay. It is, however, impossible, without a full knowledge of the facts, to say what proceedings can be taken.

INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

CALCUTTA MILK.—The Calcutta milk-supply appears to be a source of public danger, which should be dealt with instantly. The city is provided with milk, for the most part, from cows kept in the suburbs. While Calcutta is highly favoured in the matter of its water-supply, one of the best in the world, its milk-supply, received from the suburbs, is described as being impure and dangerous, the product of badly fed, badly kept, and often diseased cows, and diluted to the extent of 25 to 50 per cent. with tank-water. Of this tank-water, an eminent chemist recently said "that a good average quality of tank-water may be made by mixing six parts of our present hydrant-water with from one to two parts of the most concentrated Calcutta sewage." The cowhouses are dark, foul-smelling dens, crowded with gaunt filth-caked cattle, which have barely room to stand, the feeding-tubs full of an ill-smelling fermented wash of chopped straw, oilcake, and spent-wash from the distilleries, the milk standing in smoke-begrimed earthen jars, the surface covered with a drowning struggling mass of carrion flies, the cowhouse bordered on one side by an indescribable filthy pond, whence cattle and milk are alike watered, on the other by a quagmire of liquid filth. Rinderpest, moreover, is seldom absent from suburban cowhouses, and the gowalla mixes the milk from the diseased cattle, as long as they continue to give milk at all, with that from the healthy.

NEW ZEALAND.

HOSPITALS IN NEW ZEALAND.—Dr. Grabham's report on the hospitals in New Zealand reveals a most discreditable laxness in administration, for which the government of the colony appears to be responsible; the number of hospitals has been increased out of all proportion to the wants of the population, with the motive of inducing medical men to settle in districts where they would not be able to reside without a subsidy. As the inspector-general points out, this is a very extravagant way of subsidising a surgeon. Further, he says that the provision by the central government of hospital-treatment, which is practically gratuitous, is pauperising the population; a large proportion of the patients are stated to be not proper objects of charity, and the hospitals are further "encumbered with aged persons, incurable cases, and worthless persons who would find a home in a workhouse in England." The receipts from subscriptions and donations have fallen from £9,200 in 1883, to £7,200 in 1884; in many places charitable contributions had entirely ceased. The receipts from

patients fell from £4,400 in 1883, to £3,900 in 1884. The total expenditure was nearly £4,000 more than in the previous year, and there is little reason to doubt that great extravagance, to use no harsher term, exists in many places. Nearly £2,000 was spent upon alcoholic beverages for about 5,500 patients; and Dr. Graham says, "I recently noticed a patient, said to be suffering from incurable disease, to be taking wines and spirits to the value of some thirty-two shillings daily, at contract prices." Over £20,000 was spent in salary and wages, and over £4,400 in unclassified expenses; in one hospital, where only 190 patients were treated throughout the year, £232 were spent on drugs, £675 on provisions, £958 in salary and wages, and £1,097 in unclassified or other "expenses." As a set off to these statistics pointing to bad management in certain departments, it is pleasant to find that Dr. Graham appears to have nothing but praise for the cleanliness of the wards, the kindness of attendants and nurses, and the skill and industry of the medical officers. During the year, 5,019 patients were discharged, and 559 died, which is a mortality of 10 per cent. The most prevalent diseases were rheumatism (464 cases, 14 deaths), heart-disease (145 cases, 41 deaths), phthisis (287 cases, 105 deaths), pneumonia (211 cases, 36 deaths), intemperance and delirium tremens (153 cases, 7 deaths), cancer (132 cases, 47 deaths), and enteric fever (109 cases, 21 deaths).

From one passage in the report, we gather that the attention of the government has already been given to the best means of checking the extravagance noted in certain departments.

PHARMACY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A MEETING of the executive of the South African Pharmaceutical Association was recently held at Wood's Hotel, Grahamstown, Messrs. J. A. des Vages, M.L.A. (Willowmore), President; A. E. Austen (Cradock), Vice-President; G. E. Cook (King Williamstown), Honorary Secretary and Treasurer; and Messrs. A. Dawson (Kimberley), F. Constance (Port Elizabeth), and E. Fleischer (Humansdorp) being present. Some correspondence was read bearing upon the proposed Pharmacy Act. It was resolved that a Pharmacy Bill be presented in the next session of Parliament, for the protection of the rights and interests of chemists in Cape Colony.

NAVAL AND MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.

SURGEON-MAJOR C. C. READ, of the 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards, has gone on retired pay with the honorary rank of Brigade-Surgeon. He entered the service as Assistant-Surgeon, May 13th, 1853; became Surgeon, December 12th, 1868; and Surgeon-Major, March 1st, 1873. He was appointed to the 3rd Coldstream as Battalion-Surgeon in 1874, was transferred to the 2nd Battalion in 1876, and to the 1st Battalion as its Surgeon-Major, November 30th, 1878. Mr. Read served with the Grenadier Guards in the Crimea from November 7th, 1854, and remained there till the fall of Sebastopol; he was awarded the medal and clasp and the Turkish medal.

Brigade-Surgeon F. W. MOORE has been granted retired pay, with the honorary rank of Deputy Surgeon-General. His commissions are dated: Assistant-Surgeon, October 28th, 1853; Surgeon, May 5th, 1863; Surgeon-Major, March 1st, 1873; and Brigade-Surgeon, November 27th, 1879. In 1877-78, he was engaged in the expedition against the Jowaki Afreedeles, in the North-West Frontier of India; as Principal Medical Officer, was mentioned in despatches for his services; and received the Frontier medal. In the recent war in Afghanistan, he served with the 3rd Division of the Khyber Force, and had medical charge of the 1st and 2nd Division Base Hospitals (mentioned in despatches, medal).

Surgeon-Major FREDERICK FERGUSON, M.D., has been gazetted Brigade-Surgeon from the 18th of June last, in recognition of his services during the recent campaign in the Soudan. Sir Charles Wilson, in his despatch reporting the operations of the Desert Column after Sir Herbert Stewart was obliged to relinquish the command, owing to his severe wound, draws special attention to "the devotion to duty shown by the medical staff under Surgeon-Major FERGUSON, M.D., who worked steadily through the night of January 19-20th, though almost exhausted from their want of sleep and their labours after the fight at Abu Klea." Dr. Ferguson was also afterwards mentioned by Lord Wolsley for his services throughout the campaign.

Surgeon WILLIAM MACDONALD, M.D., and Acting-Surgeons RODERICK MILLAR and W. R. GIBSON, have resigned their commissions in the 1st Inverness Artillery Volunteers.

Surgeon JAMES FOWLER, of the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the King's Own Light Infantry (South Yorkshire Regiment), has resigned his commission; he is granted the honorary rank of Surgeon-Major, and permission to continue to wear his uniform. Acting-Surgeon ROBERT BLAIR is appointed Surgeon to the corps.

Surgeon M. E. FITZGERALD, serving in the Madras Presidency, is granted leave to Australia for six months, on medical certificate.

Mr. CHRISTOPHER GREEN, Honorary Assistant-Surgeon to the 1st Devonshire Artillery Volunteers, has resigned his commission.

Mr. THOMAS PHILIP, M.D., has been appointed Acting-Surgeon to the 1st Renweshire Volunteers.

Surgeon C. K. MORRIS, of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment (late the 2nd Lincoln Volunteers), has resigned his commission, which is dated April 18th, 1885.

Mr. WILLIAM STIRLING, M.D., has been appointed Captain in the 1st Aberdeen

Artillery Volunteers; and Mr. J. W. H. TRAIL, M.D., is made Lieutenant in the same corps.

Surgeon-Major W. C. GRANT, M.B., serving in Madras Presidency, is directed to proceed to England by the troopship leaving Bombay on December 26th. He will proceed to Deolali, and report himself to the senior medical officer there not later than December 31st for duty on board ship.

The undermentioned gentlemen are directed to proceed in medical charge of the corps proceeding from Madras for service in Burma:—Surgeon-Major F. L. KILROY to the 2nd Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment; Surgeon J. ANDERSON, M.B., to the Q Battery, 1st Brigade Royal Artillery; Surgeon M. W. KERIN to the 14th Battery, 1st Brigade, North Irish Division Royal Artillery.

Surgeon-Major J. N. STOCK, and H. W. A. MACKINNON, and Surgeons C. WILLIAMSON and C. HEATH are directed to proceed with the Staff from Madras for service in connection with the Burmah Expeditionary Force.

Brigade-Surgeon JOHN MACKENZIE, M.D., serving in Madras, is transferred from general duty Bangalore Division to the Eastern District; and Surgeon-Major F. HOWARD, M.D., is transferred from general duty Eastern District to do general duty with the Hyderabad Subsidiary Force.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

SURGEON G. F. A. HARRIS, Bengal Establishment, in joint medical charge of Simla, is appointed to the medical charge of the Headquarters Staff and Establishment remaining at the Station, in addition to his other duties.

Surgeon J. W. ROUGERS, Bengal Establishment, Medical Officer to the 2nd Punjab Infantry, has passed the prescribed examination in Pashtu.

Surgeon R. H. CAMA, Madras Establishment, is directed to do general duty under the orders of the Deputy Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, Eastern District.

Surgeon JOHN HOEY, Madras Establishment, is appointed to the officiating medical charge of the 1st Native Infantry (Pioneers), serving with the Burmah Expeditionary Force.

Surgeon-Major D. F. BATEMAN and C. SMITHORPE, and Surgeons D. F. DYMOTT, M.B., A. P. ADAMS, J. KERNAN, and R. E. S. DAVIS, all of the Madras Establishment, are directed to proceed with the Staff for service with the Burmah Expeditionary Force.

Surgeon P. DE H. HAIG, Bengal Establishment, in medical charge of the 1st Punjab Cavalry, has been granted leave of absence for one year on medical certificate.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE BOARD OF GUARDIANS OF THE CAVAN UNION AND DR. JAMES KENNY.

WE learn from our contemporary, the *Anglo-Celt*, of November 28th, that on the previous Thursday Dr. Woodhouse, one of the Poor-Law Inspectors of the Local Government Board, Ireland, held an official inquiry into the truth of certain charges which had been made by Mr. Thomas T. McCabe, a member of the Dispensary Committee of the Killeshandra district of the Cavan Union, and by one William Tully, a person to whom Mr. McCabe had given a dispensary ticket, and which ticket Dr. J. Kenny, the medical officer, had declined to recognise, accompanying his refusal with abusive language towards Mr. McCabe.

From the statement of the complainant it would appear that, on October 2nd, the man Tully went to Mr. McCabe and asked for a dispensary ticket, which he gave him, and which directed that Dr. Kenny should give medicine and attendance to Tully. It would further appear that, on the morning of the same day, Tully had made application to Dr. Kenny for attendance and medicine, without any ticket, and that Dr. Kenny had stated that he should not give either, as he held that his circumstances were such that he was not justified in applying for gratuitous medical relief. This man, it would appear, with his brother, farmed about twenty-five acres of ground, for which about £16 16s. for rent was paid yearly. On returning to the dispensary with the ticket, he behaved very rudely and offensively, so much so that Dr. Kenny ordered him out of the dispensary, accompanying this order with the remark that Mr. McCabe had only given the dispensary ticket with the object of giving him (Dr. Kenny) trouble and annoyance; some bad feeling having sprung up between the parties, consequent on Dr. Kenny declining to support Mr. McCabe's candidature as a guardian. It further appeared that Dr. Kenny, with the view to prevent a repetition of this man's threats, abusive and even obscene language, had taken proceedings against him at the petty sessions, on which occasion Tully was bound over to keep the peace for twelve months. When Tully again called with the ticket, Dr. Kenny, in consequence of the man's misconduct, at first declined to give him anything. Subsequently he called him in, and gave him a packet of Epsom salts, etc., which evidently the man did not require to take, as he produced the identical packet, in the same condition as when given him about six weeks before, at the official inquiry.

In the defence, Dr. Kenny gave a very clear and connected account of the manner in which Tully behaved on the morning of October 2nd,

when he first made application for attendance, as well as of the offensive language (unfit for publication), his threats of personal violence, and, when served with a dispensary-ticket, he again put in an appearance. He further stated that, finding, under great exasperation, he had given way to unguarded expressions, he expressed his regret, but all to no purpose. Nothing but an official inquiry, which the Local Government Board for Ireland granted, would make atonement; at the same time, nothing could have been more courteous and just than Dr. Woodhouse's conduct of it.

For ourselves, judging from the complainant's own evidence, and that of the witness Tully, whose condition he clearly knew, we are of opinion that Dr. Kenny had fair reason for stating that the ticket had been given with the object of personally annoying him; and this view is further strengthened by the effort that Mr. McCabe made at a dispensary meeting, when he attempted, in this gentleman's absence, to carry a resolution condemnatory of Dr. Kenny, on which occasion the Chairman said: "It was a principle of British law not to investigate a charge against a man behind his back."

But the whole question of the issue of dispensary-tickets requires administrative revision. It is simply monstrous that many small shopkeepers, who get on these dispensary committees, should be invested with the power of indiscriminate distribution to small farmers and others (who probably are their customers) tickets for gratuitous medical relief, whereby the dispensary medical officer's labours are greatly increased, at the same time that he is deprived of the professional earnings to which he is justly entitled. When will the dispensary medical officers combine, so that a stop shall be put to this practice, under which they groan?

Dr. Kenny is to be sympathised with in the persecution to which he has been subjected.

SOOT AND SALT AS A DEODORISER.

SIR,—In your report on Dr. Nicholl's antiseptic closet I see it stated that a mixture of soot and common salt deodorises excreta so thoroughly that no odour is perceptible, even directly after use. I have searched through all my books on sanitation, but have failed to find any allusion to such a mixture; if, however, your statement be correct, and if it be true also, that the fertilising properties of the sewage remain unaffected, the idea seems to me to be most valuable. Every surgeon is constantly having under his care cases of confinement, accident, etc., wherein the use of the nightstool or bedpan is a disagreeable necessity, and in which his patient and all the household would hail the idea of so cheap, safe, and accessible a deodorant. The further question naturally arises as to whether this mixture is disinfectant and antiseptic, as well as deodorant; whether, for instance, we could safely trust to it with the stools of typhoid fever. It would add to the completeness of our theoretical knowledge, and help us in trying it, if you could tell us in what proportions the substances should be mixed.—I am, etc.,

M. B. EDIN.

We have referred the above to Mr. W. Eassie, C.E., 11, Argyll Street, London, W., who writes: "I can nowhere obtain information regarding soot and salt as deodorising media, or where it is practised. I think that the writer of the query should be referred to Dr. Nicholls himself, who has, doubtless, some ascertained data in respect of experiments. The bulk of the question is of a purely chemical order. As for the proportions in which the substances should be mixed only Dr. Nicholls can speak. I can find no patent thereon."

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

In the twenty-eight large English towns, including London, dealt with in the Registrar-General's weekly return, which have an estimated population of 8,906,446 persons, 5,783 births and 3,379 deaths were registered during the week ending Saturday, November 21st. The annual rate of mortality, which had been 19.9 and 19.4 per 1,000 in the two preceding weeks, rose again during the week to 19.8. The rates in the several towns, ranged in order from the lowest, were as follow: Bradford, 11.2; Hull, 13.7; Plymouth, 13.7; Birmingham, 17.2; Norwich, 17.2; Oldham, 17.3; Brighton, 17.3; Cardiff, 18.3; Birkenhead, 18.5; Salford, 18.7; Sunderland, 18.7; Sheffield, 18.8; Bristol, 19.1; Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 19.1; Leicester, 19.2; Halifax, 19.6; London, 19.9; Blackburn, 19.9; Nottingham, 20.7; Liverpool, 21.6; Portsmouth, 21.7; Leeds, 21.9; Wolverhampton, 23.7; Huddersfield, 22.9; Preston, 24.4; Manchester, 24.7; Bolton, 25.1; and the highest rate during the week, 27.9 in Derby. In the twenty-seven provincial towns the death-rate averaged 19.7 per 1,000, against 19.9 in London. The 3,379 deaths registered during the week in the twenty-eight towns included 86 which were referred to measles, 79 to whooping-cough, 55 to "fever" (principally enteric), 39 to scarlet fever, 37 to diarrhoea, 32 to diphtheria, and 3 to small-pox; in all, 331 deaths resulted from these principal zymotic diseases, against 286 and 310 in the two preceding weeks. The zymotic death-rate was equal to 1.9 per 1,000. In London the zymotic rate was 2.0, while it averaged 1.9 per 1,000 in the twenty-seven provincial towns, and ranged from 0.6 in Norwich, Huddersfield, and Hull, to 3.3 in Bolton, and 3.4 in Birkenhead and in Liverpool. The fatal cases of measles, which had risen in the five previous weeks from 62 to 85, were 86 during the week, and caused the largest proportional fatality in Salford, Bolton, and Liverpool. The deaths referred to whooping-cough, which had been 42 and 69 in the two preceding weeks, further rose during the week to 79, and caused the highest death-rates in Plymouth and Bolton. The fatal cases of "fever" showed an increase of 22 upon the number in the preceding week, and showed the largest proportional fatality in Birkenhead and Portsmouth. The deaths from scarlet fever, which had been 48 and 47 in the two preceding weeks,

further declined to 39, and caused the highest death-rates in Cardiff and Leeds. The 37 fatal cases of diarrhoea differed but slightly from those returned in recent weeks. The deaths from diphtheria, which had increased from 19 to 38 in the three previous weeks, declined to 32, of which 20 occurred in London, 2 in Birmingham, and 2 in Preston. Of the 3 fatal cases of small-pox, 1 was recorded in London (exclusive of 1 of a London resident from this disease in the Metropolitan Asylum Hospital Ship *Atlas*, outside Registration London), 1 in Liverpool, and 1 in Manchester. The number of small-pox patients in the Metropolitan Asylum Hospitals, which had been 90 and 79 on the two preceding Saturdays, had further fallen to 74 on Saturday, November 21st; the admissions, which had been 21 and 11 in the two previous weeks, were again 11 during the week. The death-rate from diseases of the respiratory organs in London was equal to 5.8 per 1,000, and slightly exceeded the average. The causes of 83, or 2.5 per cent., of the 3,379 deaths registered during the week in the twenty-eight towns were not certified, either by registered medical practitioners or by coroners.

OBITUARY.

JOHN GILCHRIST, M.D., Dumfries.

WE regret to announce the death of Dr. Gilchrist at Dumfries, on Tuesday, December 8th. In 1850 he graduated M.D. in Edinburgh University, and directed his attention to the subject of lunacy. He was for some years Medical Superintendent of the Royal Lunatic Asylum, Montrose, and subsequently of the Crichton Royal Asylum, Dumfries, from which latter the state of his health compelled him to retire some time ago. Dr. Gilchrist was widely known and respected by the profession, and equally so by the public. He was devoted to scientific and antiquarian pursuits, and was President of the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society; and such was his enthusiasm, that he conducted a considerable number of courses of instruction in botany and geology, which were free to all.

MEDICAL NEWS.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.—The following gentlemen passed the Examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, December 3rd, 1885.

Frost, John Kingdon, Dunhered, Saltash.

Jolly, Sydney Blake, M.R.C.S., Home Lea, Lansdown, Bath.

Pickthorn, Alfred John, M.R.C.S., 1, Wetherby Terrace, South Kensington, S.W.

The following gentleman passed his examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery, and received his certificate to practise.

Cossens, William Henry, 37, St. Mary's Terrace, Paddington.

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

Brook, William Frederick, St. Thomas's Hospital.

Sargent, William Gostwycke, the London Hospital.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced.

BLACKBURN AND EAST LANCASHIRE INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications by December 24th.

DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON, Leicester Square.—Two Assistant-Anaesthetists. Applications by December 14th.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM, Colney Hatch.—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £150 per annum. Applications by December 17th.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.—Assistant-Surgeon. Applications by December 22nd.

PADDINGTON WORKHOUSE INFIRMARY.—Assistant Medical Superintendent and Dispenser. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications by December 16th.

ROYAL ALBERT HOSPITAL, Devonport.—Assistant House-Surgeon. Applications by December 23rd.

SHEFFIELD FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £170 per annum. Applications to Mr. C. Belk, Filton Road, Sheffield.

TORRBY HOSPITAL AND PROVIDENT DISPENSARY, Torquay.—Junior House-Surgeon and Dispenser. Salary, £90 per annum. Applications by January 1st, 1886.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Queen's Road, Chelsea.—Senior Surgeon. Applications by December 21st.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Queen's Road, Chelsea.—Second Surgeon. Applications by December 21st.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Queen's Road, Chelsea.—Second Surgeon on the In-Patient Staff. Applications by December 21st.

WORCESTER AMALGAMATED FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—Salary, £130 per annum. Applications by December 15th.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

- CHAPMAN, Paul M., M.D. Lond., M.R.C.P., appointed Physician to the Hereford General Infirmary, vice H. G. Bull, M.D., deceased.
- MARSHALL, Gilbert, L.R.C.P. Ed., L.R.C.S. Ed., appointed Medical Officer of the Marketbill Dispensary District, Armagh Union, vice J. Pratt, L.K.Q.C.P., J.P., resigned.
- PHILLIPS, Ernest Willmer, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.S.A., appointed House-Surgeon to the Windsor Royal Infirmary.
- RUSSELL, William, M.D., M.R.C.P.E., appointed Tutor in Clinical Medicine in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, vice G. A. Gibson, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., 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.

DOUGLAS.—At 98, Bonnygate, Cupar Fife, on the 28th ult., the wife of C. E. Douglas, M.D. Edin., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

MURPHY—MOORE.—On the 2nd inst., at Christ Church, Sunderland, by the Rev. Canon Scott-Moncrieff, M.A., James Murphy, M.D., of Holly House, Sunderland, to Nana, second surviving daughter of the late William Moore, of Herrington Hall, Co. Durham.

PAGE—CURTIS.—On the 10th instant, at Neath, Glamorganshire, by the Rev. A. F. Mills (Neath), assisted by the Rev. Thomas Jones (Aberdare), Herbert M. Page, M.D., S.Sc. Camb., of Redditch, Worcestershire, to Hannah M. (Annie), elder daughter of Alfred Curtis, Esq., Solicitor, Town Clerk of Neath.

DEATHS.

PARLETTE.—November 29th, at 7, College Green, Bristol, after a short illness, aged 30, James Parlette, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Ed., F.C.S., L.S.A. Lond., late Assistant Medical Officer to the Sirhowy Ironworks, Monmouthshire.

PARSONS.—On December 7th, at 8, Shaw Street, Liverpool, D. W. Parsons, L.R.C.P. Lond., aged 54.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT IN HOSPITALS.—A correspondent writes: On Wednesday, December 2nd, was celebrated the first anniversary of a somewhat novel institution, namely, a branch of the Church of England Temperance Society, incorporated especially for the staff of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. This little Society includes 80 per cent. of the hospital staff, and bids fair, by its utility, to increase its hold upon the organisation. After a service held in the beautiful chapel of the hospital, an address was given by the Rev. N. Dawes, a member of the Council of the parent Society, on the Religious Aspect of Temperance. Adjourning to the Board-room, a meeting followed, presided over by the Vice-President of the branch, who was supported by Mr. W. H. Barry, a member of the hospital committee, the Rev. N. Dawes, Dr. Barlow, one of the physicians of the hospital, Miss Ursula Gardner, the Honorary Secretary of the Juvenile Union, Mr. Wyatt, of the parochial branch, and others. The speeches were listened to with much interest; that of Dr. Barlow, from the medical standpoint, should be instrumental in winning recruits to the Society, dealing, as it especially did, with the exceptional work of nursing, and the temptations that might arise in such occupation to seek relief by the use of stimulants. If such societies can be conducted on a liberal and tolerant basis, it seems that much good might be effected. Besides the advantages to the individual in joining such a Society, the influence on the patients in a hospital, many brought there through intemperance, might be very great. We should like to hear that other hospitals have followed the example of that in Great Ormond Street.

EXTENSIVE sanitary improvements are now in progress at the Foundling Hospital, and the children have prudently been removed until the alterations are complete.

VACCINATION.—A Government grant for successful vaccination has been awarded to Mr. George Harvey, Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Wirksworth District of the Belper Union.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Samuel West: On the Treatment of Hæmoptysis.

TUESDAY.—Pathological Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Silcock: Syphilitic Ulcerative Tracheitis. Mr. J. Poland: Internal Anthrax. Mr. Sutton: Diseases of the Circulatory System in Animals. Mr. D'Arcy Power: Endosteal Sarcoma of the Upper End of Femur. Dr. Samuel West: Aneurysm of Mitral Valve. Mr. G. Stoker: A Rhinolith. Mr. Swinford Edwards: Round-cell Sarcoma of Skin of Thigh. Dr. Hale White: Melanotic Sarcoma of Liver. Mr. Lane: Multiple Sarcomata. Mr. E. H. Fenwick: 1. Tuberculous Ulcers of Bladder (card); 2. Contracted Bladder supervening on Atony.—Statistical Society, 7.45 P.M. Mr. Thomas Scrutton: The Preventible Loss of Life at Sea.

FRIDAY.—Society of Medical Officers of Health, 7.30 P.M. Dr. E. C. Scaton: The Recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes as they Affect the Status of the Medical Officer of Health.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

- MONDAY.....St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—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.—Hospital for Women, 2 P.M.—Chelsea Hospital for Women, 2 P.M.
- TUESDAYSt. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—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, 2.30 P.M.—St. Mark's, 2 P.M.—St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department), 4 P.M.—Cancer Hospital, Brompton, 2.30 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 Central, 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, 2.30 P.M.—National Orthopaedic, 10 A.M.—King's College, 3 to 4 P.M.
- THURSDAYSt. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.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.—Chelsea Hospital for Women, 2.30 P.M.
- FRIDAYKing'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.—West London, 2.30 P.M.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.
- SATURDAYSt. 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.—Cancer Hospital, Brompton, 2.30 P.M.

HOURS OF ATTENDANCE AT THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

- CHARING CROSS.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1.30; Skin, M. Th., 1.30; Dental, M. W. F. 9.
- GUY'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, M. Tu. F., 1.30; Eye, M. Tu. Th. F., 1.30; 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, Th., 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. Th. S., 2.30; Ear, Tu. F., 2; Skin, F., 1.30; Larynx, F., 2.30; Orthopaedic, M., 2.30; 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, W., 2; Throat, Th., 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., M. Th. 9.30; Eye, Tu. F., 9.30; Ear, W. S., 9.30; Throat, M. Th., 9.30; Skin, Tu. F., 9.30; Electrician, Tu. F., 9.30; Dental, W. S., 9.30.
- ST. THOMAS'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, except Sat., 2; Obstetric, M. Th., 2; o.p., W., 1.30; Eye, M. Th., 2; o.p., daily, except Sat., 1.30; Ear, M., 12.30; Skin, W., 12.30; Throat, Tu. F., 1.30; 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., 10.30.
- 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.

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.

In order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that all letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the office of the JOURNAL, and not to his private house.

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

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.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

THE PREVENTION OF HYDROPHOBIA.

SIR,—I notice in the papers the deplorable death of the fifth victim of the bite of one rabid dog, in the case of a poor boy, aged 12, in Poplar, a few days ago. Hydrophobia is on the increase, and it is surely time to put a stop at once to this appalling and preventible disease.

Dogs become rabid in one way only, and that is by being bitten by a rabid dog. There is no other cause of that disease, which, like small-pox, measles, and scarlatina, does not arise spontaneously in our day. Hence the only way to put a stop to hydrophobia is to see that no rabid dog can bite either a human being or another dog. This can be accomplished only by muzzling all dogs in London for a certain time, say, six months from this date, which would allow of the latent disease appearing in such animals as have been bitten, which would at once be destroyed. I do sincerely trust that our authorities may, without delay, cause these suggestions to be carried out.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

CHARLES R. DRYSDALE, M.D., Senior Physician to the Metropolitan Free Hospital of London.

THE TITLES OF M.D. AND F.R.C.S.

SIR,—It appears to me, from the correspondence in your valuable JOURNAL, that a section of the profession want to have these diplomas conferred on them without any trouble on their part. I started in life as a M.R.C.S.(Eng.) and L.S.A.; but after ten years' practice, thinking that the F.R.C.S. gave certain privileges, I determined to get it; and, although doing a large general practice, I became F.R.C.S. (by exam.). Some years went on, and I thought a M.D. might be useful. I then again worked up, and passed the necessary examinations, and became M.D. of a British university. Why cannot other men do likewise? The only reform I can see necessary is the reduction of age from 40 to 30 at Durham.—I remain, yours, etc.,

F.R.C.S.

ALLEGED INDECENT ASSAULT BY A LEEDS SURGEON.

SIR,—Allow me to suggest, through the medium of your powerful JOURNAL, that a subscription be got up to defray the legal expenses of Dr. George Henry Heald, Police Surgeon, Leeds, who was recently honourably acquitted at the York assizes. No doubt you will comment upon this case in an early issue, so that your readers will be in a position to judge as to the merits of the case. It, however, again illustrates the dangers to which medical men are exposed every day, and calls for some united action to be taken to prevent false charges being brought against honourable members of our profession. I shall be glad to receive any subscriptions on behalf of Dr. Heald, who, I can assure your readers, has suffered cruelly both in pocket and in reputation.—I am, sir, yours, etc.,

24, Park Square, Leeds.

H. ARTHUR ALLBUTT, M.R.C.P.E.

THE PROPELLER BONE.

SIR,—I observe certain of your correspondents are discussing the innominate bone as a "propeller bone." It may assist their researches if you will permit me to make known that an article on this subject appeared last year in the *Scientific American*, and an illustration was duly given, representing a boat fitted with a screw modelled in the shape of the bone in question. Those of your readers who desire information on this point should consult the journal named. Messrs. Triibner, of Ludgate Hill, London, E.C., would no doubt be able to procure the number containing the article referred to.—Yours truly,

School of Medicine, Edinburgh.

ANDREW WILSON.

GRINDELIN.

SIR,—Can you give me any information of the drug "grindelin"? I want to know what it is, the cases in which it is found to be beneficial, and the doses in which it is prescribed; also if it is liable to produce unpleasant symptoms.—Yours faithfully,

R. N. L.

* Grindelia robusta and G. squarrosa are the plants used. There is an alcoholic extract, the dose of which is from two to three grains in a pill with lycopodium; and a fluid extract, which may be given in doses of from ten to thirty minims frequently repeated. It is the Californian remedy for asthma, and is said to be useful in whooping-cough (ten minims every two hours). Vide *Extra Pharmacopœia* (Martindale), and *New Remedies* (Dolan).

SIR,—Can any of your readers inform me of the title, and how to obtain, a pamphlet by Mr. Ernest Hart on Vaccination?—I am, yours truly,

M.R.C.S.

* *Truth about Vaccination*, by Mr. Ernest Hart, is out of print.

PODALIC VERSION.

SIR,—In a recent number of your JOURNAL, there is noticed a case where premature labour was induced by electricity, and it is said that "podalic version" was performed. I have seen this phrase elsewhere, and it seems to be creeping into use; but, in the name of our excellent mother-tongue, and of all who value purity of language, I protest against its acceptance. Why not say simply turning? Or, if a more high sounding term must be employed, at all events let it be correctly formed, and not a mongrel derived partially from Greek and partially from Latin.—I am, etc.,

F. R. C. P.

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

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Archipelago on Fire. By Jules Verne. London: Sampson Low, Marston, and Co. 1885.
The Voyage of the Aurora. By H. Collingwood. London: Sampson Low, Marston, and Co. 1885.
Eric and Ethel; Fairy Tale. By Francis Francis. London: Sampson Low, Marston, and Co. 1885.
The King of the Tigers. By Louis Rousselet. London: Sampson Low, Marston, and Co. 1885.
Key Hole Country. By Gertrude Jerdon. London: Sampson Low, Marston, and Co. 1885.
Animal Stories Old and New. By Harrison Weir. London: Sampson Low, Marston, and Co. 1885.
Clinical Society's Transactions. Vol. XVIII. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1885.
Transactions of the Pathological Society of London. Vol. XXXVI. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1885.
Syllabus of Materia Medica. By A. Harvey, M.D., and A. D. Davidson. London: H. K. Lewis. 1885.
Fagge's Principles and Practice of Medicine. Vols. I and II. By C. H. Fagge, M.D., F.R.C.P. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1885.
Influence of Sex in Disease. By W. R. Williams, F.R.C.S. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1885.
Manual of Animal Vaccination. By Dr. E. Warlomont. London: J. and A. Churchill.
Pocket Formulary. By H. Beasley. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1885.

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The BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for 1886.

Edited by ERNEST HART, Esq.

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