

Association Intelligence.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Thirty-first Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be holden at Bristol, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 5th, 6th, and 7th days of August.

President—GEORGE BURROWS, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., London.

President-elect—JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.Ed., Clifton.

All the meetings will take place at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton.

WEDNESDAY, August 5th.

1 P.M. Meeting of Committee of Council.

2.30 P.M. Meeting of the General Council.

4 P.M. First General Meeting of Members. The retiring President (Dr. Burrows) will make a few remarks. The new President (Dr. Symonds) will deliver an Address. The Report of Council will be presented, and other business transacted.

9 P.M. Through the kindness of the Committee, a *Conversazione* will be held at the Literary and Philosophical Institution, Bristol.

THURSDAY, August 6th.

11 A.M. Meeting of the Members of the New Council.

12 NOON. Second General Meeting of Members. The Address in Medicine will be read by WILLIAM BUDD, M.D. Papers and Cases will be read.

3.30 P.M. The Address in Surgery will be read by AUGUSTIN PRICHARD, Esq.

The Report of the Medical Benevolent Fund will be presented.

Papers and Cases will be read.

9 P.M. By the kind invitation of the President (Dr. Symonds) a *Soirée* will be held at his residence, Clifton Hill House, Clifton.

FRIDAY, August 7th.

12 NOON. Third General Meeting of Members. The Address in Chemistry in its Relations to Medicine will be given by WILLIAM B. HERAPATH, M.D., F.R.S. Papers and Cases will be read.

3.30 P.M. The Address in Midwifery will be read by J. G. SWAYNE, M.D. Papers and Cases will be read.

6.45 P.M. Dinner at the Victoria Rooms. Tickets One Guinea each. Gentlemen intending to be present at the Dinner are requested to send notice, as soon as possible, to Dr. MARSHALL, 8, The Mall, Clifton.

Members are requested to enter, on arrival, their names and addresses in the Reception Room at the Victoria Rooms, where cards will be supplied which will secure admission to all the proceedings.

Refreshments will be provided in the Victoria Rooms during the Meetings.

Members who wish for previous information may communicate with Dr. MARSHALL, 8, The Mall, Clifton.

Papers have been promised by T. S. Fletcher, Esq. (Bromsgrove); Graily Hewitt, M.D. (London); Lionel Beale, M.B., F.R.S. (London); G. F. Burder, M.D. (Bristol); W. O. Markham, M.D. (London); B. W. Richardson, M.D. (London); A. P. Stewart, M.D. (London); R. W. Coe, Esq. (Bristol); W. M. Clarke, Esq. (Bristol); G. D. Gibb, M.D. (London); Thomas Nunneley, Esq. (Leeds).

Papers and Cases will be read in the order of the dates at which notice of them has been received by the General Secretary.

Alteration of Laws. Notice of the following new Laws has been given by W. O. MARKHAM, M.D.

At each Annual Meeting of the Association, the Secretary shall lay before the first meeting of the Council a List of the Members of the Association, together with a separate List of all Members whose Subscriptions are in arrear, and the amount of Subscriptions due from each Member.

This List shall be at once referred to a Committee, consisting of four or more Members of the Council (three of whom shall form a quorum), together with the President and the Secretary. The Committee shall thereupon proceed to settle the List of Members for the ensuing year, retaining or erasing, as they may think fit, the names of any Members who are in arrear: provided always, that no person shall remain a Member of the Association who is more than two years in arrear. The List of Members thus corrected shall be presented to a subsequent Meeting of the Council, and shall, with their approval, be published immediately after the Annual Meeting.

The Secretary shall in each year, during the first week of June, supply the Editor of the JOURNAL with the names of all those Members of the Association whose Subscriptions have not been paid up to the 31st day of May in each year.

Notice of the following alteration has also been given by Dr. Markham.

In Law 15, for the words "twelve months", to substitute the words "five months".

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *Gen. Sec.*

Worcester, June 30th, 1863.

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

THE Committee of Council will meet at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on Friday, the 24th of July, at 1.30 P.M.

Business:—To prepare Report of Council, and to receive Report of Finance Committee, etc.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *Gen. Sec.*

Worcester, July 13th, 1863.

BRANCH MEETING TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
SOUTH-WESTERN. [Annual.]	Board Room of the Devon and Exeter Hospital.	Wednesday, July 22nd, 3 P.M.

GRATUITOUS MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE following suggestions as to the steps that might be taken by the Association to discountenance and suppress public gratuitous medical services have been forwarded to the Committee of Council by Dr. Gibbon:—

"1. To give publicity to all hospitals and dispensaries that recognise the principle of payment for medical service. This has done good service in the case of insurance companies.

"2. To append to every medical vacancy announced in the JOURNAL the amount of salary or *honorarium*, if any, that is attached to the post, just as the value is given with every clerical vacancy.

"3. To bring from time to time the expediency as well as the justice of paying for medical, no less than for legal and clerical services, under the consideration of the governors and committees of all institutions.

"4. To urge individual members, neither directly nor indirectly, to countenance or encourage the acceptance of gratuitous service, by giving testimonials, canvassing, etc., for such appointments.

"SEPTIMUS GIBBON, M.D."

The subjoined letter on the same subject has also been received by the General Secretary from Charles F. J. Lord, Esq. :—

"1, College Terrace, Hampstead, N.W.

"DEAR SIR,—Your Committee are right in considering that I take a deep interest in the attempt to break down the vile system of gratuitous medical advice; but I am not sanguine of doing much good, till an uniform co-operation is obtained from the profession. The few are the brave and unselfish; the many will seek the honour (?) of public appointments through speculations of incidental or ulterior advantages.

"I have found this in my long battle for the Poor-law medical staff, for which Mr. Griffin has subsequently worked so long and so hard. Medical men in these appointments perseveringly put the suicidal knife to their own throats, while the officers are kept to their task-work without redress, owing to the unworthy competition of their hungry professional brethren. With feelings arising from this experience, I do not expect any good from the fourth proposition of Dr. Gibbon; though, on the whole, I would very cordially support his four propositions.

"So soon as the measure may have acquired 'strength by going,' it would be important to have a public meeting. The matter is not mature enough for this at present; it may be so after the Bristol anniversary. Would the 'magnates' there assist by a vigorous support?

"Time has 'altered men and things'. Among the revolutions he has brought about should be reckoned the abolition of 'gratuitous medical service.' This service has become iniquitous, and should have 'died, sir, long ago.' Justice, benevolence, sound policy, and professional respect, now unite to demand this death, if only in the spirit of the motto or phrase, 'Let every tub stand on its own bottom.'

"I am, dear sir, yours very faithfully,

"CHARLES F. J. LORD.

"Dr. Williams."

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the South-Western Branch will take place on Wednesday, July 22nd, at the Board-room of the Devon and Exeter Hospital, at 3 p.m. President-elect, Samuel Budd, M.D.

Dinner at Pratt's Hotel, Exeter, at 5 p.m.

C. H. ROPER, *Hon. Sec.*

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of this Branch was held on Wednesday, July 1st, 1863, at the Squirrel Hotel, Wellington.

A vote of thanks to the retiring President, HENRY ALFORD, Esq., was passed unanimously; and the President-elect, C. P. COLLYNS, Esq., of Dulverton, then took the Chair.

The minutes of the last annual meeting having been read and confirmed, the following Report of Council was presented.

Report of Council. "Your Council are pleased to announce that the Branch continues in a prosperous condition. During the past year, one new member has joined, and one has withdrawn owing to removal of residence. Two members have not paid their subscriptions for three years, and have removed from the neighbourhood. The society will have to determine what course to adopt with respect to them. If their names are omitted, the Branch will number thirty-one members.

"Since the last annual meeting, your Council have not been called upon to consider any public matters of interest or requiring comment.

"Acting on the suggestions made last year, a *conversazione* meeting was held on the 7th January, at which the following communications were read :—

"1. Excision as a Local Mode of Treatment in Cancer of the Mamma. By Henry Alford, Esq.

"2. Case of Aneurismal Tumour of the Femoral Artery. By William Liddon, Esq.

"3. Case of Gun-shot Wound of the Arm, with Division of the Median Nerve and Brachial Artery, where Recovery ensued. By H. W. Randolph, Esq.

"There were also some interesting pathological preparations exhibited; and short histories of the cases in which they occurred given.

"Your Council believing that such a reunion of our members is not less useful than agreeable, are encouraged to recommend that a meeting of the same character should be held in the ensuing winter.

"The Treasurer's Report shows that the finances are in a satisfactory condition, and that a balance remains to the credit of the society. The usual payment of one shilling and sixpence by each member for Branch expenses is recommended to be continued.

"Your Council, in conclusion, beg to call the attention of members to the claims of the Benevolent Fund—subscriptions in aid of which are earnestly sought by the promoters of that most excellent and useful Fund."

Removal of Members. It was resolved that the names of Dr. Sewell and Dr. Sawkins be omitted from the list of members of the Branch.

Conversazione Meeting. It was resolved—

"That a *conversazione* meeting be held during the ensuing winter at Taunton."

The Treasurer's Report was received and approved. It was resolved—

"That the annual Branch subscription of one shilling and sixpence be continued."

Next Annual Meeting: President-elect. It was resolved—

"That Hamilton J. Kinglake, M.D., of Taunton, be President-elect; and that the next annual meeting of the Branch be held at Taunton."

Council. It was resolved—

"That the Council for the ensuing year do consist of the following members :—W. E. Gillett, Esq.; R. A. Smith, Esq.; W. Liddon, Esq.; H. J. Alford, Esq.; G. Kidgell, Esq.; and W. Reynolds, Esq."

Secretary. A vote of thanks to Dr. Kelly for his services during the past year was passed; and he was re-elected Honorary Secretary to the Branch for the ensuing year.

President's Address. The President then delivered an address. After some introductory remarks, he observed that it was the duty of the profession to prevent disease as well as endeavour to cure it; and he instanced an occurrence of last autumn, when the town of Tiverton was visited by low fever. As soon as servants became attacked, they were removed to the homes of their respective parents, thus conveying the disease into what was before a healthy locality. Three cases of typhus were brought into three different parishes in his neighbourhood; the disease spread in each, and valuable lives were sacrificed in consequence. To obviate this, he suggested that every union house in the kingdom should have a fever ward attached, to which the class of patients he had alluded to should be sent, instead of to their homes. He thought the British Medical Association should urge this on the authorities of the country; and he considered it would not be a very great interference with the liberty of the subject if a compulsory clause were introduced into any Act that might be required for the purpose to compel this class of persons to be conveyed to the ward, where proper medical and other attendance was provided for them, instead of propa-

gating disease in other localities by being removed to their respective homes.

He then called attention to the working of the present Poor-law system; and here, too, he thought the Parent Association should interfere, and apply to the Government to have some medical element associated with the Poor-Law Board. He instanced the treatment his son, lately one of the medical officers of the Dulverton union, had recently experienced. This gentleman had for six years filled the office of Surgeon to the Union House, at the pitiful salary of £20 a-year. He was also the non-resident medical officer to No. 2 District. On three several occasions, he had to perform amputation on inmates of the Union House, and required to engage the assistance of a neighbouring surgeon, to whom, on two of the three occasions, a fee of two guineas was paid by the guardians; but the third time they demurred; and, after a correspondence on the subject between their medical officer (Mr. Collyns), the Board of Guardians, and the Poor-Law Board, ending in the fee being refused, Mr. Collyns felt himself compelled to resign his appointment to the Union House. The Board of Guardians thereupon advertised, offering the increased salary of £30 a year for the House, and promised that the District No. 2 should be given to the person elected, as soon as Mr. Collyns' year of office, then having five months to run, had expired. After much delay and dis-appointment from successive elections and resignations, Mr. Attwater, a surgeon with only one qualification, was at length installed in office. Now this office not only comprised the union house and the No. 2 district of the Dulverton Union, which contains an area of above 20,000 acres, but Mr. Attwater held and still holds appointments in the Southmolton Union embracing an area of nearly 30,000 acres; thus making a total area of above 50,000 acres, over which enormous district he has medical charge of the sick poor. All this time there were duly qualified medical men at Dulverton who offered for, and were ready to take, the appointment to the house; and the No. 2 district Mr. Collyns did not wish to abandon, and offered himself for re-election. The Poor-law Board were made fully aware of all these circumstances; nevertheless, they have chosen to confirm the appointment of Mr. Attwater. The President dilated on this special grievance, and intimated that a pamphlet with all the correspondence had been published, and might be had by any member on application to him. He expressed the belief that the presence of a medical element at the Poor-law Board would have influenced a different decision and issue in this case. Unless some mode of redress were adopted, he thought it would end some day in a great majority of the body of union medical officers combining to give in their resignations simultaneously.

The address concluded with some observations on the past and present treatment of pneumonia. The President thought the old practice of bloodletting the safest; and he believed a great mortality arose from the want of bleeding in the early stage of the disease, and perhaps also from pleurisy being often complicated with, and sometimes mistaken for, pneumonia. He considered that, if the pulse be full, not yielding to the pressure of the finger, bloodletting, and that not sparingly, but from a large orifice, was the best remedy; if the pulse be small, frequent, and yielding, topical bleeding by leeches or cupping should then be resorted to for relieving the congested organ. He had seen many a patient in this disease, who had lost fifteen or twenty ounces of blood from the arm, recover afterwards under a stimulating plan of treatment, who he believed would have been lost, had the depletion not first been adopted. He allowed that bloodletting was formerly carried too far, and instanced some amusing examples of the practice as he had witnessed it in his early days. He urged on all practitioners, when called early in the attack to a patient

suffering from severe pain in the chest accompanied with fever, and the pulse not yielding to the pressure of the finger, first to bleed, and then afterwards resort to stimulants; and this he believed to be the best practice. He wished to remark, in reference to these observations, that they were noted on paper before he read the recent articles on the subject of blood-letting in the pages of the JOURNAL.

The Poor-law System. After some discussion on the points raised in the President's address, the best thanks of the meeting were accorded to him, and the following resolution was passed.

"That this meeting do request the Council of the Association to bring before the annual meeting in August next the desirableness of urgently memorialising the government to introduce into the Poor-law Board some medical element, to assist them in deciding all matters connected with the medical department of that Board."

Dinner. A party of eleven afterwards dined together, under the presidency of C. P. Collyns, Esq., at the Squirrel Hotel; many interesting medical discussions being intermixed with the usual loyal and other toasts of the evening.

MIDLAND BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the Midland Branch was held in the Board-room of the Infirmary, Derby, on Thursday, July 2nd, at 2 P.M.; HENRY GOODE, M.B., President, in the Chair. There were also present fifteen members and several visitors.

MR. SYMPSON, the retiring President, first took the Chair, and in a brief speech introduced his successor, Dr. GOODE, who delivered an address, which is published at page 57.

MR. SYMPSON proposed and MR. BAKER seconded a vote of thanks to Dr. Goode, which was carried by acclamation.

Report of Council. MR. SYMPSON read the following Report of Council.

"Your Council, in presenting to the members of the Midland Branch of the British Medical Association the report for the past year, rejoice in being able to congratulate them on the satisfactory manner in which the meetings have passed off, and on both the number and the value of the communications which have been read; whereof the following is a list:—

"1. Case of Traumatic Aneurism of the Gluteal Artery successfully treated by Ligature. By E. F. Broadbent, Esq.

"2. Two Cases of Melasma, or Bronzed Skin of Addison's Disease. By E. Morris, M.D.

"3. Case of Tania treated by the Areca-Nut. By E. Morris, M.D.

"4. On the Prevention of Incontinence of Urine after Female Lithotomy. By Thomas Paget, Esq.

"5. Some Cases of Intermittent Fever following Injury to the Spleen. By S. Lowe, Esq.

"6. Some Interesting Cases of Strangulated Hernia, with Various Complications. By C. Brook, Esq.

"7. A Case of Sporadic Cholera, with Rupture of some of the Fibres of the Gastrocnemius Muscle from Violence of Spasm. By G. Mitchinson, L.K. & Q.C.P.I.

"8. On the Advantage of Retaining the Staff in the Bladder during the Operation of Lithotomy. By E. Morris, M.D.

"9. The Difficulties of Signing Certificates of Lunacy under the Existing State of the Law: with Cases. By F. D. Walsh, Esq.

"10. Case in which Biliary Calculi escaped through a Sinus in the Abdominal Wall. By T. Sympson, Esq.

"11. Dislocations of the Knee-joint. By C. Brook, Esq.

"12. Puerperal Convulsions. By S. Lowe, Esq.

"13. Case of Inflammation of the Left Femoral Vein, followed by the Formation of an Abscess round the Shoulder-joint: Symptoms of Pyæmia: Recovery. By G. Mitchinson, L.K. & Q.C.P.I.

"14. Case of Disease of the Tarsal Bones: Amputation of the Foot after Pirogoff's Method: Recovery. By T. Symptom, Esq.

"A feeling of disappointment having found expression at some of the meetings, that such opportunities as were afforded by them of friendly intercourse and scientific discussion should be lost to the Lincoln members for so long a period as three years, during the holding of these meetings at other towns within the circle of the Branch, it was unanimously resolved that a Local Medical Society be formed, the establishment of which, it is hoped, will not fail indirectly to strengthen and promote the prosperity of the Branch, by keeping alive a spirit of unity, good feeling, and scientific rivalry among its members, similar to that fostered and encouraged by the British Medical Association, and by awakening those who have not yet become members to the benefits conferred by that Association, will induce them to join it when the Branch again assembles at Lincoln.

"The New Society was happily and successfully inaugurated at Basingham, on the 25th of June, and the members were most hospitably entertained by Mr. Osborne Johnson."

Dr. WEBB moved, and Dr. OGLE seconded the adoption of the report. Dr. Webb suggested that the meetings in the several counties should be held in different parts of the county, and not always in the county towns.

Mr. WHITE supported this recommendation, and observed that it had already been acted upon during one of the periods of meeting in Lincolnshire, when the Branch met at Spalding.

Officers. A vote of thanks was proposed to the retiring President, the members of the Council, and the Secretaries for the past year; and the members of Council were re-appointed for the several counties. Mr. Dolman was appointed Secretary for Derbyshire; Mr. White was re-appointed for Nottingham; Dr. Sloane for Leicester; and Dr. Mitchinson for Lincoln.

President-elect. Mr. WHITE proposed, and Dr. WEBB seconded—

"That Dr. Ransom of Nottingham be requested to act as President for the ensuing year."

New Members. Mr. Marriott of Leicester, and Dr. Candy of Alstonfield, members of the General Association, were elected members of the Branch; and Mr. Frederick Stevenson of Nottingham, Dr. Charles Taylor of Nottingham, and Mr. William Maltby of Basford, near Nottingham, were elected new members.

Medical Act. The Secretary was called on to read a few of the clauses of the Medical Act, in which changes have been brought before the Medical Council, but no resolutions were agreed to.

Papers, etc. The following communications were made:—

1. Excision of the Upper Jaw. By S. W. Fearn, Esq. Mr. Fearn illustrated his paper by showing the subject of the operation and the fibrous tumour removed. As on a former similar occasion in another patient, the deformity was but small compared to the formidable nature of the operation.

2. Mr. FEARN also showed a large tumour, of more than eight pounds weight, recently removed from the back of a female. Also, a good case of Chopart's operation for removal of the foot, and a case in which most of the os calcis had been removed for disease, a useful foot being still left.

3. Case of Amputation at the Hip-Joint. By C. H. Marriott, Esq. This paper led to a discussion on the exposure of cartilages of joints; and Mr. GISBORNE and Mr. FEARN remarked on the small chance of injurious

results from the cartilages of the lesser or greater joints being left exposed after operations.

4. *Hæmatoma of the External Ear in Lunatics.* By W. P. Stiff, M.D.

In the remarks which followed, Dr. GOODE stated that he thought ecchymoses occurred more frequently in some classes of lunatics than in other cases of disease.

5. *Notes of Excision of the Carpal Bones in a Gun-shot Wound.* By W. Newman, M.D.

Mr. FEARN stated that he had successfully removed the carpal bones for disease in two cases, opening the joint in each case by a longitudinal incision at the side of the wrist along the head of the ulna.

Mr. DOLMAN remarked that the removal of joints in the wrist would be more likely to be attended with success than similar operations in the foot.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings; after which, the members and their friends met at dinner at the King's Head, at 5 o'clock, and passed a convivial evening.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

The eleventh annual meeting of this Branch was held at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, on Tuesday, July 7th, at half-past 3 p.m. The Chair was taken by the retiring President, R. DUNN, Esq., who afterwards resigned it to his successor, FRANCIS SIBSON, M.D., F.R.S. There were also present thirty-four members and five visitors.

New Members. The following gentlemen, members of the Association, were elected members of the Branch; J. R. Gibson, Esq., Russell Square; W. S. Kirkes, M.D., Lower Seymour Street; and R. R. Matthewson, Esq., Belvedere, Kent.

Report of Council. Dr. HENRY, one of the Honorary Secretaries, read the following report.

"The Council of the Metropolitan Counties Branch have much pleasure in reporting that there has been a considerable increase in the number of members during the past year. At the last annual meeting, the number on the list was 132; since that date, there have been 10 resignations, and 53 names have been added, making the total number at present 175.

"During the year, the attention of your Council has been directed to the subjects of gratuitous medical services, and of medical evidence in courts of law.

"The evils arising from the present system of gratuitous medical services having been brought under the notice of a meeting of the members of the Branch held on Dec. 2nd and 9th, 1862, the subject was referred to the Council, in order that they might consider what steps, if any, might be taken for the suppression of the evil. After a careful examination of the subject at three meetings, your Council presented a report to a general meeting of the Branch held on March 25th, the proceedings of which have been reported in the JOURNAL. Your Council hope that the permanent Committee appointed at the last mentioned meeting will use their best energies in carrying out the objects which have been entrusted to them; and that they will receive every possible support from the other members of the Branch. Your Council would remind the members that the system of gratuitous medical services is deeply rooted; and that its eradication or modification will require lengthened and energetic action—which, however, if carried on, will in all probability be successful. Your Council cannot quit this subject without acknowledging the valuable suggestions and advice in regard to it which they have received from Dr. Gibbon, an active member of the Branch.

"The subject of medical evidence in courts of law has for some time past been, and is still, exciting so much attention among the members of the Association and the

profession, that your Council have felt it a duty to take so important a matter into serious consideration, and to submit to the present meeting a series of amended resolutions, which, if thought proper, may be adopted by it as an expression of the views of the Branch as to the rules which should guide the conduct of medical men when called on to give evidence in courts of law. A copy of these resolutions has been forwarded to each member of the Branch, with the circular calling the annual meeting.

"Your Council would suggest to their successors in office that, as the Branch has received so great an accession of strength during the last year, and seems likely, if judiciously fostered, to go on increasing, they should take into consideration the propriety of instituting meetings of the Branch at which papers may be read or lectures delivered on subjects connected with medicine or the collateral sciences. It might be found possible, and be advantageous to the Branch, to bring before these meetings several matters of scientific interest to medical men, but which are not likely to be discussed in the ordinary medical societies of the metropolis."

On the motion of Dr. SEMPLE, seconded by Mr. BOTOMLEY, the report was, after some remarks on gratuitous medical services by Dr. Gibbon, Dr. G. Johnson, Dr. Stewart, and other members, received and adopted.

Treasurer's Report. Dr. HENRY read the Treasurer's report.

Receipts.

Balance in hand at last meeting . . .	9	18	9
Subscriptions received . . .	16	17	6
	£26	16	3

Expenditure.

Donations to Medical Benevolent College . . .	4	4	0
Donation to Medical Benevolent Fund . . .	2	2	0
Richards for printing . . .	7	9	6
Secretaries' expenses . . .	8	2	9
Balance in hand . . .	4	18	0
	£26	16	3

In addition to the balance in hand, there were also assets estimated at £8.

Election of Officers and Council. The following members were elected the Officers and Council for 1863-4:—*President*—Francis Sibson, M.D., F.R.S. *President-elect*—Charles F. J. Lord, Esq., Hampstead. *Vice-Presidents*—B. W. Richardson, M.A., M.D.; Robert Dunn, Esq. *Treasurer*—Edwin Lankester, M.D., F.R.S. *Secretaries*—A. P. Stewart, M.D.; Alexander Henry, M.D. *Ordinary Members of Council*—For the Metropolitan District: John Birkett, Esq.; W. Camps, M.D.; Septimus Gibbon, M.D.; Henry Lee, Esq.; William O. Markham, M.D.; S. W. J. Merriman, M.D.; John Millar, Esq.; E. H. Sieveking, M.D. For the Extra-Metropolitan District: William Martin, Esq. (Hammersmith); J. H. Paul, M.D. (Camberwell); Joseph Seaton, M.D. (Sunbury); Harrington Tuke, M.D. (Chiswick).

The President's Valedictory Address. Before leaving the chair, Mr. DUNN, the retiring president, briefly addressed the meeting. He thanked the members for the indulgence at all times and on every occasion extended to him during the time that he had been in office. Last year, he not only felt all the novelty of a new position; but also, with the prospect before him, of the great annual gathering in the metropolis of the British Medical Association, he felt certain misgivings as to his capabilities of discharging the duties of president in a manner that might be creditable to himself and satisfactory to the Branch. But the appointment of a committee of management for the occasion of the meeting of the Association, so efficient, energetic, and zealous, at

once banished from his mind all anxiety as to that meeting; and as for the rest, he had endeavoured to do his best, and he must say that his tenure of office had been one of unmixed pleasure to himself, and he had the satisfaction of knowing that the members of the Branch had increased. Glancing back for a moment upon the past, and at the success of last year's great meeting—for it was a great success, when the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons vied with each other, with true nobility on their part, in doing honour to our Association—he would say, that best thanks were due to the Committee of Management for their admirable arrangements. Seldom, if indeed ever, had there been delivered three more able and eloquent addresses on any such occasion; and the Committee gave proof of their wisdom in selecting representative men to deliver them. He need not remind the members with what rapt attention they listened to the stirring eloquence of Dr. Walshe, as he expatiated on the importance of deductive reasoning to practical medicine; to the marvels and progress of physiological science, announced by the clear and far-seeing Dr. Sharpey; or to the lessons of practical wisdom upon practical surgery as they fell, effectively and tellingly, from the lips of Mr. Paget. He finally congratulated the Branch on having elected, as the occupant of the presidential chair, so able and distinguished a man as Dr. Sibson, under whose presidency the Metropolitan Counties Branch was sure to flourish and to prosper.

Dr. SIBSON then delivered an address.

Representatives in the General Council. The following members were unanimously elected as representatives of this Branch in the General Council for 1863-4:—Geo. Burrows, M.D., F.R.S.; A. Henry, M.D.; Jonathan Hutchinson, Esq.; W. O. Markham, M.D.; B. W. Richardson, M.D.; C. H. F. Routh, M.D.; E. Smith, M.D., F.R.S.; and G. Webster, M.D.; with A. P. Stewart, M.D., *Secretary*.

Vote of Thanks to the Retiring President. Dr. HENRY moved, Dr. WEBSTER seconded, and it was unanimously resolved—

"That the thanks of the Branch are due, and are hereby given, to the retiring President, Robert Dunn, Esq., for the able and courteous manner in which he has performed his duties during his year of office."

Medical Evidence in Courts of Law. Dr. MARKHAM moved the adoption of the resolutions on medical evidence, which appeared in the JOURNAL at p. 631 of last volume.

Dr. HENRY seconded the motion.

Dr. EDWARD SMITH proposed, and Dr. ROUTH seconded, as an amendment to the first resolution—

"That, in giving evidence in courts of law, the medical witness should carefully distinguish between facts and opinions, and should as far as possible limit his evidence to the statement of facts. When, however, he is obliged to express opinions upon medical facts, he should state them explicitly as his opinions only."

The amendment was lost by a large majority; and the resolutions, after a discussion, in which Dr. Markham, Dr. Stewart, Dr. Seaton, Dr. Routh, Dr. E. Smith, Dr. Douglas, and Dr. Thudichum took part, were carried in the following form:—

"1. Whereas medical men of equal knowledge and honesty differ widely in their views of the nature and proper treatment of many diseases; and whereas the opinions of medical men, and especially of those of high standing, given in courts of law on medical matters, are not unfrequently (if uncontradicted) accepted both by judge and jury as of equal value with positive facts, and may consequently lead to the perversion of justice and the gross injury of innocent persons:

"This meeting is of opinion that no medical man is justified in expressing, in a court of law, a positive opinion on any medical subject concerning which he

is aware that medical men of equal knowledge and honesty with himself hold different views, without endeavouring to inform the court that his opinion is a personal one, and not universally accepted by the profession.

"2. Whereas it is seldom possible for a medical man to form, from the statements of patients themselves or of their non-professional friends (which are notoriously untrustworthy and defective), or from the present condition of the patients, an accurate judgment as to the propriety of the treatment previously adopted:

"This meeting is of opinion that no member of the profession is justified in expressing, in a court of law, an opinion as to the treatment adopted by another professional man, when his knowledge of the treatment employed in a given case is derived solely from the non-professional statements of the patient or his friends.

"3. Whilst expressing these sentiments, this meeting recognises in the fullest manner the solemn duty incumbent on every medical man, in common with all other classes of the community, to further the ends of justice by unhesitatingly deposing to all facts within his knowledge, without regard to the effect of such evidence on the interests or character of a professional brother."

Gratuitous Medical Services. Dr. GIBBON moved, Mr. LORD seconded, and it was resolved—

"That this Branch recommend to the General Council the desirability of carrying out the steps for the discouragement of public gratuitous medical services, which have been unanimously approved by this Branch."

Dinner. At half-past five, the members and their friends, including the Rev. Dr. Cookesley (vicar of Hammersmith), Colonel Ouvry, F. Ouvry, Esq., Dr. Waters (Chester), Dr. Armstrong (Gravesend), etc., to the number of thirty-five, dined together.

Correspondence.

EXAMINERS AND PRIZES OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

SIR,—Whilst you are considering the reforms necessary in the governing body of the College of Surgeons, allow me to direct attention to one department of that College in which the existing system works most imperfectly. I allude to the annual prizes offered by the College, and the mode in which they are awarded. Scarcely a year passes in which it does not become apparent that no competitor offers himself for some of those prizes, and very frequently, indeed, the prize is given to the only candidate; yet, as shown by the proceedings of our Pathological Society, there are not wanting plenty of men who will work, provided only they can bring the results of their labours before a competent tribunal.

The terms upon which the College prizes are offered, demand "original investigation." But what security have those who, in the prime of life, bestow their best days to these investigations, that the examiners who for years have maintained a "dignified silence" upon those subjects should be in a position to appreciate their work?

The examination for the prizes is in some respects analogous to that for the diploma of members of the College. If an essay be presented containing matter differing in any great degree from that which was taught forty years ago, the examiners have no time to pause to investigate its merits, and the shortest way to deal with it is to consider it "theoretical."

Some who have tried for these prizes, and many who have not, do not consider the tribunal as at present constituted a fair test of the value of really original investigations, and they prefer appealing concerning such sub-

jects to a society or to the public. But the case would probably be different if men were appointed as examiners whom the profession know to have recently been themselves engaged in original pursuits. Every one might then submit his work to the College, with a full confidence that his labours would be duly appreciated.

I am, etc.,

VINDEX.

July 6th, 1863.

AN ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS.

SIR,—You last week wrote:—"We most sincerely congratulate the profession on the results of the late election." The Fellows "have shown a determination to exercise their power in the performance of their duty," and much more to that effect on one side. On the other, the present system "favour[s] jobbery," encourages "skilful electioneers," gives a man "the advantages of electioneering trickery." "That the mode of election, therefore, is more favourable to the jobber than the high-minded man, needs no further demonstration." With all this latter article, I most cordially agree; but in the present instance it destroys the force of the former. To congratulate the profession that skilful jobbery, skilful electioneering, electioneering trickery, have led to a result however desirable, is hardly consistent with sound ethics.

In the present election, canvassing was most recklessly carried on for two of the successful candidates. I was canvassed by London physicians and country practitioners for one of them. Plumping was resorted to. Everything was done which ought not to be done; and the improper system carried its point—and the profession is to be congratulated. Elections as now carried on will do more to demoralise the profession in ten years than the old system would in fifty. Under such a system, no man except a pachyderm will come forward; a gentleman never; because no gentleman will compete with the pachyderm in his own way. It will be much as it is in a metropolitan borough; or in an election of a president of the once United States.

I am, etc.,

A FELLOW.

[Our highly respected correspondent's indignation has manifestly produced in him a temporary confusion of ideas. Calm consideration will assuredly tell him that it is neither unchristian nor unprofessional to rejoice at the good that comes out of evil. He should rather have commended our consistency in rejecting the means, though on this occasion we gladly accept the conclusion. At all events, we are delighted to find that so able a man is on our side in the matter of condemnation of the present system of election. We hope he will assist us in the attempt of obtaining some more fair and rational system of election. We may, however, remind him that on this occasion no Councillor was elected by a minority of forty votes. EDITOR.]

NITRATE OF SILVER IN PREVENTING THE PITTING OF SMALL-POX, ETC.

LETTER FROM JOHN HIGGINBOTTOM, ESQ., F.R.S.

SIR,—Having observed, many years ago, that the nitrate of silver had been used on the continent by MM. Velpeau, Bretonneau, and Serres, for the purpose of preventing pits and scars consequent on small-pox, I was induced to apply it as they directed, by puncturing the centre of each vesicle with a needle and then applying the solid stick of the nitrate of silver. I found it effectual in preventing any further progress of the pox.

The next patient on whom I used the nitrate of silver was a strong healthy young man about twenty years of age, with confluent small-pox. I punctured a few of the vesicles on the face; but these being very numerous, I satisfied myself with applying the concentrated solu-

tion over the whole surface of the face where they were most confluent, without making any punctures. The solution answered as well as where the punctures had been made in arresting the progress of the eruption.

The next case of confluent small-pox was one where no punctures were made. Mr. P., a young man, 19 years of age, and of delicate constitution. From the confluent state of the pox, I should have expected deep pits and scars on his face. I applied the concentrated solution on the whole of the face and ears in the same manner as recommended in erysipelas. The vesicles of the pox were immediately arrested in their progress, and in four days presented small hardened eschars free from inflammation, whilst the pustules on the body were gradually proceeding to suppuration. In about nine days, the eschar had come away from the face without leaving pits.

In this case, the nitrate of silver not only prevented the pits, but the inflammation and irritation and offensive suppuration, which are so distressing to the patient. If thought necessary, the nitrate of silver might be applied all over the scalp, as in erysipelas, to prevent cerebral inflammation.

It might be applied on and within the cavity of the ear to prevent otitis; and on the conjunctiva to prevent ophthalmia.

I have used as a gargle to the throat in small-pox, with great benefit, a solution of a scruple of nitrate of silver in three ounces of distilled water.

For the remedy to be successful in preventing pitting, it should be applied on the fourth or fifth day of the eruption; the concentrated solution being used, composed of the old stick nitrate of silver, four scruples to four drachms of distilled water. I am, etc.,

JOHN HIGGINBOTTOM.

Nottingham, July, 1863.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

LETTER FROM RICHARD GRIFFIN, ESQ.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your giving insertion to the annexed correspondence, which, I regret to say, gives no hope of any amelioration of the condition of the Poor-law medical officers this session.

I am, etc., RICHARD GRIFFIN.

12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, July 11th, 1863.

"12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, July 8th, 1863.

"SIR,—On the 22nd June, I had the honour to forward to you, as the Chairman of the Select Committee on Poor Relief, certain documents which I desired might be laid before the Select Committee. May I ask the favour of your informing me if they have been received, and also if they have been considered; if not, when they are likely to be brought under the notice of the Select Committee? These documents I hold to be very important, as they not only contain a refutation of all the material points in Mr. Cane's evidence, but also prove that the present regulations for the medical relief of the poor require material changes before they can be made to approach anything like perfection; and therefore I trust they (the documents) will receive attention.

"I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,
RICHARD GRIFFIN.

"The Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, Chairman, Select Committee Poor Relief."

"Poor-law Board, Whitehall, July 10th, 1863.

"SIR,—I am desired by Mr. Villiers to inform you that the Select Committee on Poor Relief have taken no evidence in the present session; and also to return to you the documents which you forwarded to him on the 22nd ult., as the Committee will not sit again during the session. "I am, sir, your obedient servant,
"Richard Griffin, Esq."

"HUGH OWEN.

Medical News.

APPOINTMENTS.

ALDERSON, Frederic H., Esq., appointed House-Surgeon to the West of London Hospital.

DAVIES, William, Esq., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Salop and Montgomery Lunatic Asylums.

McDIARMID, Albert, M.D., appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the Chatham Convict Prison.

RITCHIE, Charles, M.D., appointed Resident Physician to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh.

RIVINGTON, Walter, Esq., elected Assistant-Surgeon to the London Hospital.

STURGES, Octavius, B.A., M.B., appointed Medical Registrar to St. George's Hospital.

TRENCH, William S., M.D., elected Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Liverpool.

WILLIS, Francis, M.D., elected Assistant-Physician to the Westminster Hospital.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE.

BLACKWELL, Thomas W., Esq., to the Balla Dispensary District of the Castlebar Union.

CESAR, R. T., to District No. 2 of the Alderbury Union, Wiltshire.

CREWE, John, Esq., to the Weldon District of the Oundle Union, Northamptonshire.

DODGSON, H., M.D., to District No. 2 of the Cockerham Union,

Moore, Lionel W., Esq., to the Debenham District of the Bosmere and Claydon Union, Suffolk.

SLOANE, Matthew H., M.D., to the Owendon District of the Halifax Union.

STEWART, James S., M.D., to the parish of Tyrie, Aberdeenshire.

TOFTS, Henry, M.D., to the Working District of the Guildford Union.

WILTSHIRE, Jas., Esq., to District No. 1 of the New Forest Union.

WYLLIE, A., M.D., to the Borough District of the Walsall Union.

ARMY.

BELL, Surg. A., 76th Foot, to be Surg. 36th Foot, *vice* J. Jopp, M.D.

JOPP, Surgeon-Major J., M.D., 36th Foot, to be Surgeon 76th Foot, *vice* A. Bell.

MEIKLEHAM, Surgeon G. C., M.D., 70th Foot, having completed twenty years full-pay service, to be Surgeon-Major.

SCHROEDER, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon H. S. E. to be staff-Surgeon, *vice* A. Morphew.

MILITIA.

MARSHALL, J. S., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st Lanarkshire Royal Militia.

VOLUNTEERS. (A.V.—Artillery Volunteers; R.V.—Rifle Volunteers):—

BARKER, S., M.D., to be Second Assistant-Surgeon 1st Sussex A.V.

HUSBAND, W. D., Esq., to be Surgeon 1st Administrative Battalion West Riding R.V.

PATERSON, W., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st Ruteshire A.V.

VINCENT, P., Esq., to be Surgeon 1st Administrative Battalion Cornwall R.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

DEVILLE, T., M.D., 37th Staffordshire R.V.

LAMBEN, H., Esq., 15th Lincolnshire R.V.

RUFFE, R. E., Esq., 39th West Riding R.V.

SEABROOK, T. E. F., M.D., 12th Kent A.V.

MARRIAGE.

NICHOLSON, Adam, M.D., to Anna Mary, youngest daughter of the late Barnwell JACKSON, Esq., of St. Vincent, at the Cathedral, St. John's, Antigua, on June 11.

DEATHS.

CATTON, Richard T. G., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon 3rd Dragoon Guards, at Ahmednugger, India, aged 28, on May 23.

COAR, On July 9th, at Oxford, Julia Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the late Thomas T. Coar, Esq., Surgeon.

DAVIES, On July 12th, Agnes Eleanor, youngest daughter of *Wm. Davies, Esq., York Town, Surrey.

EDWARDS, On July 8, at Worthing, aged 21, Louisa, only daughter of Charles F. Edwards, Esq., late chief Medical Officer in the Convict Establishment, Bermuda.

MILSON, On July 11th, aged 69, Rachel, widow of Richard O. Milson, Esq., Surgeon, of Heaton, Yorkshire.

O'FLAHERTY, On July 12th, at 2, Baker Street, Portman Square, aged 34, Margaret Ann, wife of Thomas A. O'Flaherty, M.D.

PARDEY, Charles, M.D., at Southampton, on July 10.

SPEAR, William, M.D., at Totton, Southampton, aged 45, on June 12.

TAYLOR, On July 10th, aged 2, Edith, daughter of Alfred A. Taylor, Esq., Surgeon, Queen Street, Cheshire.

WARE, Samuel, Esq., Surgeon, at Chard, aged 64, on July 3.

NAVAL LUNATICS. The insane patients at Haslar have been transferred to the Naval Lunatic Asylum at Yarmouth.

A MEDICAL KNIGHT. Dr. Gray, a medical man who has taken a prominent part in the politics of the day in Ireland, has been knighted by the Lord Lieutenant.

REQUESTS. Lady Poltmore has left £500 to the Devon and Exeter Hospital. Mr. W. G. Gibson has by will left £5,000 for the construction of an hospital at Saffron Walden.

THE HOSPITAL OF LA CHARITÉ is to undergo a complete transformation. The works have been commenced under the direction of M. Labrousse, the architect of the Administration of Public Assistance, and are to cost 2,000,000 *francs*.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH INSURANCE COMPANY. The annual report of this company shows very satisfactory progress in its business. The premiums received from all sources during the year 1862 amount to upwards of £65,776, against £47,878 in 1861. The claims during the year were £34,579: 4: 7, giving a total since the commencement of the society of £215,579.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE INDIAN ARMY. In the House of Commons, in reply to Mr. Coningham, Sir C. Wood said that already certain improvements had been introduced into the arrangements for preserving the health of our Indian army, and that still more effective measures remained to be taken in pursuance of the recommendations of the sanitary commissions.

PRESENTATION TO R. H. BOWNESS, M.D. At the anniversary of the "Rainbow" Lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, celebrated at Poulton-le-Fylde, on the 8th inst., a valuable testimonial in the shape of a handsome gold watch was presented to R. H. Bowness, M.D., in recognition of his unceasing interest in the welfare of the members of the society during a period of eighteen years. In presenting it the speaker said, that he trusted the doctor would not value the testimonial for its intrinsic worth, but as a memento of their respect for him, and an acknowledgment of the zealous and faithful performance of his professional duties.

MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION. The following contributions have been received since our last announcement, towards the liquidation of outstanding debts amounting to £200, and for which the creditors are seeking to make the treasurer, John Lavies, Esq., liable: it should be stated that he is already fifty pounds out of pocket. Dr. G. Budd, £2:2; Dr. J. Watson, £2:2; Dr. J. Duncan, £1:1; Dr. Smiles, £1:1; Dr. G. Tebay, £1; M. Ware, Esq., £1:1; E. Pearse, Esq., £1:1; F. Price, Esq., Deptford, £1:1; J. White, Esq., £1:1; W. U. Whitney, Esq., £1:1; E. A. Newton, Esq., 10s. 6d.; Dr. Riding, 10s.; Dr. A. B. Duncan, 10s. 6d.; H. W. Statham, Esq., 10s.; P. Marshall, Esq., 10s.; T. C. Jackson, Esq., 10s.; Dr. H. C. Andrews, 10s.; George Booth, Esq., £1:1; H. Hancock, Esq., £2:2; H. Harris, Esq., £2:2; Dr. Routh, £2:2; W. A. Harrison, Esq., £1:1; Dr. Semple, 10s. 6d.; Dr. A. Clark, 10s. 6d.; Dr. Richards, 10s. 6d.; Dr. Morgan, £1; C. Ridley, Esq., £1:1; Dr. Frazer, 10s.; T. Hazel, Esq., 10s. 6d. Subscriptions should be sent direct to John Lavies, Esq., 5, Great George Street, Westminster, in aid of the Fund.

A TRANSATLANTIC MUSEUM. Washington letters state that there are at present at the Army and Medical Museum in Washington about 1,000 surgical specimens, 150 medical specimens, and 300 specimens of missiles used in warfare. A portion of the bone, both sides of the fracture, when amputations are performed by army surgeons, have to be sent to the Surgeon-General for inspection, and the specimen is placed in the museum, with the surgeon's name attached to it, as a record of

either the good or bad operation performed. This museum, it is said, already combines more surgical and medical specimens than any museum of the kind in Europe. The specimens are illustrative of gunshot wounds, shell and sabre wounds, injuries and affections. Accompanying such specimens is a description stating where the wound was received, how treated, the result, and by whom treated. Mr. Corcoran's spacious building near New York Avenue has been secured, and is being fitted up for the new medical museum. (*American Paper*.)

KING'S COLLEGE. The distribution of prizes and rewards to the students in medicine, general literature, and the applied sciences took place at King's College on June 26th; the Bishop of Lichfield in the chair. The following were the successful candidates in the medical department:—*Scholarships*: Edward Harley, senior, scholar; Charles Berrell, 2nd year scholar; Robert S. Smith, Charles Kelly, and Edward C. Evans, junior scholars; Edward Harley, William L. Canton (since deceased), Charles Kelly, Samuel H. Smith, Robert S. Smith, Frederick Marshall and Charles H. B. B. Allen (equal), Warneford scholars. *Prizes and Certificates of Honour*:—*Winter Session, 1862-63. Warneford Prizes*: Edward Liveing Fenn, 1; Charles Berrell, 2. *Leathes Prizes*: William T. T. Dyer, 1; Alfred J. Matthew, 2. *Divinity Prizes*: John S. Ferris, 3rd year; Richard W. Haines, 2nd year; Charles Kelly, 1st year; *Gill Prize*: John Oakley. *Todd Clinical Prize*: Henry L. Kempthorne. *Anatomy*: Thomas Clay Shaw, B.A., and Miles Astman Wood (equal), prizes; Charles W. Philpot, Thomas Howells, and Edward L. Fenn, 2nd year, Walter O. Withers, Samuel H. Smith, and Geoffrey Hett, 1st year, certificates of honour. *Physiology*: Walter T. P. Wolston, prize; Thomas C. Shaw, B.A., and Paris Bradshawe, 2nd year; W. O. Withers and George A. Brown, 1st year, certificates of honour. *Chemistry*: C. W. Philpot, 2nd year, prize; T. C. Shaw, B.A., certificate of honour; G. A. Brown, 1st year, prize; and Frederick Marshall, 1st year, certificate of honour. *Medicine*: Henry L. Kempthorne, prize; Herbert Nankivell, Joseph Groves, B.A., and Revett C. Powles, certificates of honour. *Surgery*: H. Nankivell, prize; R. C. Powles and John S. Ferris, certificates of honour. *Clinical Medicine*: Joseph Groves, B.A., prize. *Clinical Surgery*: H. Nankivell, prize; J. S. Ferris and James Jones, certificates of honour. *Summer Session, 1862. Practical Chemistry*: Charles Berrell, prize; John B. Welch, and Richard W. Haines, certificates of honour. *Forensic Medicine*: J. S. Ferris, prize; Edward Harley, and H. Worms, certificates of honour. *Botany*: William T. T. Dyer, prize; Frederick Noyes, C. W. Philpot and Thomas Bond, certificates of honour. *Midwifery*: Robert Meadows, prize; E. Harley, and Gwynne H. Harries, certificates of honour. *Materia Medica*: T. C. Shaw, B.A., prize; R. W. Haines and J. B. Welch, certificates of honour. *Comparative Anatomy*: R. C. Powles, prize; W. T. Buckle, certificate of honour. *Clinical Medicine*: William C. Smith, prize; Edward Harley, certificate of honour. *Clinical Surgery*: John S. Wesley, prize; Edward Bellamy, certificate of honour. The following are the names of those elected associates of King's College. John Bubb, Edward Harley, John Henry Hartley, Robert Lewer, Charles Samuel Matthews, William J. Smith, and William N. Thursfield.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL. The distribution of prizes took place on June 29th, 1863; Sir Stuart Alexander Donaldson in the chair. The following prizes and certificates of honour were awarded to First Year's Students:—*Summer Session, 1862. Prizes*, Mr. Henry Cribb, Bishops Stortford; Mr. Edward Norton, Birmingham (equal). *Certificates of Honour. Materia Medica*. Mr. H. Cribb; Mr. E. Norton; Mr. Robert King, Moulton, Lincolnshire. *Botany*. Mr. H.

Cribb; Mr. E. Norton; Mr. R. King. *Practical Chemistry.* Mr. H. Cribb; Mr. E. Norton. *Winter Session, 1862-63. First Prize,* Mr. Vincent Edmund Noel, Devonport; *Second Prize,* Mr. Charles Wills, Narborough, Leicestershire. *Certificates of Honour. Anatomy.* Mr. V. E. Noel; Mr. C. Wills; Mr. W. Griffith Jones, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire; Mr. John Swindale, Appledore, Devon; Mr. Alfred Jones, Undy Vicarage, near Chepstow. *Physiology.* Mr. V. E. Noel; Mr. J. Swindale; Mr. C. Wills; Mr. W. G. Jones; Mr. Thomas W. Gascoyne Palmer, Cheltenham. *Chemistry.* Mr. V. E. Noel; Mr. C. Wills; Mr. J. Swindale. The following prizes and certificates of honour were awarded to Second Year's Students:—*Summer Session, 1862. First Prize,* Mr. John Ablewhite Smith, Louth; *Second Prize,* Mr. Alfred Brend, Bideford. *Certificates of Honour. Midwifery.* Mr. J. A. Smith; Mr. A. Brend. *Medical Jurisprudence.* Mr. J. A. Smith; Mr. A. Brend. *Winter Session, 1862-63. First Prize,* Mr. George Clements, Brixham; *Second Prize* (which for the fulness of his clinical reports has been made equal to the first prize), Mr. Henry William Freeman, Bideford. *Certificates of Honour. Medicine.* Mr. R. King; Mr. H. W. Freeman; Mr. G. Clements. *Surgery.* Mr. G. Clements; Mr. H. W. Freeman; Mr. R. King. *Anatomy.* Mr. G. Clements; Mr. H. W. Freeman; Mr. R. King; Mr. Edward J. Armstrong, Dowlais; Mr. Charles E. H. Rogers, Westmeon, Hants; Mr. Horace Basan, London. *Physiology.* Mr. G. Clements; Mr. H. W. Freeman; Mr. R. King; Mr. C. E. H. Rogers. *Pathology.* Mr. G. Clements; Mr. R. King; Mr. H. W. Freeman. *Prize offered by the Medical Society for the best Paper of the Session.* (In consequence of the excellence of two of the papers, a prize has been awarded to the author of each) Mr. George Pyle, Amesbury; Mr. James Smith Turner, London. The following prizes were awarded to Third Year's Students:—*Clayton Prize for Comparative Anatomy.* Mr. S. Seabury Edwards, Hampstead. *Governors' Prize for the best Report in Clinical Medicine and Clinical Surgery.* Mr. J. A. Smith. *Honorary Certificates of General Good Conduct and Diligence.* Mr. Frederick H. Alderson; Mr. A. Brend; Mr. William G. Curgenvin; Mr. George H. Clifton; Mr. John Drust; Mr. Charles Hinds; Mr. Thomas Lucas; Mr. Charles J. Pyle; Mr. George Pyle; Mr. J. A. Smith; Mr. William D. Stone; Mr. Frederick J. Tucker; Mr. James S. Turner; Mr. William J. Wey; Mr. Charles H. Weld; Mr. Albert Weaving.

MEETING OF MEDICAL MEN OF BEDFORD AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD. A meeting of the medical men of Bedford and its vicinity was held at the George Hotel, Bedford, on Monday, July 6th, at two o'clock; R. Couchman, Esq., Mayor of the borough, in the chair. The meeting was called on account of the alleged fact that Dr. Burrows and Dr. Wharton had met in consultation with Mr. Coombs. It was stated that Mr. Coombs had never given a satisfactory disavowal of the practice of homœopathy, and that Dr. Wharton still continued to meet him in consultation. Mr. Coombs had privately stated that he does not practise homœopathy, and had intimated his willingness to give any pledge required of him for the future. The meeting resolved to request of Mr. Coombs "a distinct pledge in writing to the chairman that in future he will not practise homœopathy; and that he will discontinue using the M.D. from a homœopathic college." A resolution was also passed:—"That it is the opinion of this meeting that members of the profession should refuse to meet in consultation anyone who meets in consultation with homœopathic practitioners." In consequence of some statements made by Mr. Thurnall and Dr. Barker, the meeting passed a resolution, "That the practice of medical men, or their wives, calling upon new comers in the town or neighbourhood, with the view of either directly or indirectly securing them as patients, is derogatory to the profession; and

that the present meeting earnestly recommends that in future the strictest regard to professional etiquette should, on all occasions, be observed by members of the profession." Mr. Carter having alluded to the fact that one practitioner was present who, as a Licentiate of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, used the title of M.D.; and that such license does not give a right to the use of such title, Mr. Hacon at once pledged himself not to use the title of M.D. for the future. Dr. Barker said that sufficient had come under the notice of the meeting to show the necessity of a society which should take cognisance of professional irregularities—in fact, of a court medical. He proposed that a Bedford Medico-Ethical Society should be established, to consist of a president, a secretary, and three members of committee, the president and secretary to be chosen annually, and one member of committee to retire annually in rotation. If any member of the profession in the town or county had any reason to complain of the conduct of any other member, he should communicate with the secretary, who should call a meeting of the committee. If the committee deemed the alleged charge of sufficient importance, a meeting of the entire profession to be called for the purpose of settling the matter in dispute. A resolution forming the society was passed; Mr. Couchman was elected president, Mr. Carter secretary, and Dr. Wharton, Mr. Thurnall, and Mr. C. Robinson, the first members of the committee. Dr. Prior's name was afterwards substituted for that of Dr. Wharton. At this stage of the proceedings, Mr. Coombs entered the room. The chairman explained to Mr. Coombs the object of the meeting; and disclaiming on the part of himself and of every member present any personal feeling, or any other motive than the purest desire to uphold the honour of the profession, read to him the first resolution that had been passed. Mr. Coombs expressed his willingness to give the required pledge in writing, as far as the practice of homœopathy is concerned; but refused to discontinue the use of the M.D. degree. It was then resolved:—"That this meeting will not recognise Mr. Coombs's repudiation of homœopathy, unless he at the same time repudiate the degree of M.D. obtained from a homœopathic university." Mr. Coombs was urged by the chairman and by several members of the meeting to give up the use of the homœopathic M.D.; but he still maintained that he had made all necessary concessions. The following resolution was then unanimously, although reluctantly, passed:—"That this meeting congratulates Mr. Coombs on his repudiation of homœopathy as a practice; but regrets that, in consequence of his not agreeing to resign his title of M.D. obtained from a homœopathic college, they cannot consent to meet him in consultation."

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

SATURDAY. Royal Botanical Society.

POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—JULY 11, 1863.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births. Deaths.	
During week.....	{ Boys .. 989 Girls .. 994 }	1983 1287
Average of corresponding weeks 1853-62		1777 1170
Barometer:		
Highest (Fri.) 30.198; lowest (Tu.) 29.890; mean, 30.093.		
Thermometer:		
Highest in sun—extremes (Fri.) 124 degs.; (Sun.) 99 degs.		
In shade—highest (Fri.) 83.5 degs.; lowest (Fri.) 51.1 degs.		
Mean—65 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.+3.4 degs.		
Range—during week, 32.4 degrees; mean daily, 26.8 degrees.		
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 70.		
Mean direction of wind, N.E.—Rain in inches, 0.00.		

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's for Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum, 1.15 P.M.—Samaritan, 2.30 P.M.

TUESDAY....Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.

WEDNESDAY...St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.

THURSDAY....St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic 1 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopædic, 2 P.M.

FRIDAY.....Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.

SATURDAY....St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Lock, Clinical Demonstration and Operations, 1 P.M.—Royal Free, 1.30 P.M.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * All letters and communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

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

ERRATUM.—Mr. Maunder, we have been requested to state, is not a candidate for the vacant office at the Lock Hospital.

MR. W. R. ROGERS.—The paper of Mr. Martyn on "Housemaid's Knee" may be found in the JOURNAL of November 23rd, 1861.

SYNTAX IN ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.—We have been asked the meaning of the following choice specimen of *reasonable* English. It is, we are told, a Law which has just been passed by the Governors of St. George's Hospital.

"1. No surgeon shall hold office beyond a period of twenty years from the date of his last election (but this law shall not affect any surgeon elected before the fifth day of July, One thousand eight hundred and sixty-one), when he shall become a consulting-surgeon."

According to the words of the Law, it is manifest that the present surgeons of St. George's Hospital became consulting-surgeons at the date of their election as surgeons! No medical man, we are satisfied, is responsible for such a composition.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. H. HYDE SALTER; Mr. C. F. MAUNDER; Dr. W. R. ROGERS; Dr. HENRY GOODE; Dr. H. BARKER; Dr. T. J. WALKER; Dr. KIDD; Mr. W. CADGE; Dr. MAYO; Mr. T. O'CONNOR; Dr. VOSE; Mr. RICHARD GRIFFIN; Mr. HIGGINBOTTOM; Mr. H. LEE; Dr. GIMSON; Mr. W. FIDOWES; Dr. EDWARD COPEMAN; Mr. G. REED; Mr. I. B. CARTER; and Mr. BREMIDGE.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. Lectures on Surgical Pathology delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. By James Paget, F.R.S. Revised and Edited by William Turner, M.B. London: 1863.
2. Braithwaite's Retrospect of Medicine. London: July 1863.
3. Half-Yearly Abstract of the Medical Sciences. London: July 1863.
4. Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science.
5. On Peculiar Appearances exhibited by Blood-Corpuscles under the Influence of Solutions of Magenta and Tannin. By W. Roberts, M.D.
6. Small-Pox and its Prevention. By W. Newman, M.D. 1863.

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