

Wedl's observations in 1856, when my paper was published, or I should certainly have mentioned them.

In any case, M. Davaine has been anticipated by more than one observer; and it seems right that the medical public should know the facts.

I am, etc.,
W. H. RANSOM.

Nottingham, July 23, 1863.

EXTREMES IN PRACTICE.

LITTEr FROM THOMAS MARTIN, ESQ.

SIR,—We are again much obliged to Dr. Mayo for having invited attention to "extremes in practice", on which I took the liberty of submitting a few observations in a recent number of the JOURNAL, grounded on the teachings of my great master, Dr. George Fordyce, in his *Lectures* on his practice at St. Thomas's Hospital (of which he was, in my time, the senior physician), and on my own active practice of half a century in this place. In fact, I am old enough to have prepared medicines for Dr. Mayo, when he was a little boy, from his father's prescriptions at Tunbridge Wells in 1798.

Dr. Fordyce occasionally adverted to the differences of treatment to be observed among different classes of patients. With reference to those in the hospital, who were mostly metropolitan, having feeble powers and not bearing or requiring much antiphlogistic treatment, he had to support these feeble powers and the asthenia by appropriate *materia medica*, nutriment, and stimulants administered with judicious discrimination; and, although there were no clinical lectures in those days, he had occasionally something to say on the danger of over-stimulation, and his practice was very successful among a class of patients which must have been very much the same as constitute the inmates of hospitals at the present day.

I have practised in a "happy valley"—the Vale of Holmsdale—which, with the hill above and the region round about, is, according to the mortuary returns of the Registrar-General, not only eminently healthy, but it is the healthiest part of England. The prevailing diseases have been more or less of an inflammatory character; although with a proportion of cases of disease sooner or later requiring in their progress supporting or stimulating treatment; each having its speciality, requiring modifications at different periods, depending on the judgment of the practitioner.

With respect to the quantities of ardent spirit administered in the treatment of disease at the present day, I should expect it to defeat its own object. We all know that, in morbid asthenic states of the system, support, nutriment, and stimulants are required; and that more beer, wine, and alcohol will be borne without intoxication than in the healthy condition; but I confess I do not understand the administration of ardent spirits at the present amount, but perhaps the brandy is several degrees below proof. We used to endeavour to nourish and support patients, so as to enable them to bear up and pass through their diseases to a successful issue; but such monstrous administrations of ardent spirits as we now hear of were never contemplated as being necessary or safe.

I beg to avail myself of this opportunity of expressing my disapprobation of the word *drug* being applied to any medicine. Dry-salters and dyers deal in drugs; we deal in the *materia medica*.

I am, etc., THOMAS MARTIN.

Reigate, July 28th, 1863.

SMALL-POX IN A TROOP SHIP. The *Windsor Castle*, from London for Bombay, with troops, has put back to Plymouth, small-pox having broken out on board.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on July 29th:—

Atkinson, Frederick Page, L.S.A., Romney Terrace, Westminster
Blake, Edward Thomas, Taunton
Bottle, Alexander, Dover
Brewster, Edward, Grantham
Brietzsche, Henry, H.M. Dockyard, Deptford
Bulmore, Charles Forrester, Falmouth
Butcher, Henry Osborne Fawcett, Ware, Herts
Coates, Frederick William, Salisbury
Court, Josiah, Warwick
Davenport, William, Kidsgrove, Staffordshire
Fleming, John, Ulverstone
Haden, Edward Cresswell, Dudley, Worcestershire
Hughes, William Frederick, Barnsbury
Jones, John Thomas, L.S.A., Tremadoc, Carnarvonshire
Lowe, Robert Whillington, Edinburgh
Mickley, Arthur George, Buntingford
Morley, Frederic, Bicker, Lincolnshire
Morris, Joseph, Birmingham
Parkes, Henry McKenzie, Woolwich
Pauli, Churton Gillman, Amsterdam
Soper, Robert Wills, Dartmouth
Starling, George, Old Charlton
Ure, John, Birmingham
Wilson, Henry, Ulverstone

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On July 23rd, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Atherton, Ebenezer, Bingley, Yorkshire
Carter, William, Newbury, Berks
Grewcock, John Baily, Falkingham, Lincolnshire
Jeffery, Edward, Nant-y-glo, Tredegar, Monmouthshire
Lisle, Richard Philip, Cardiff
Moore, William Daly, Dublin

At the same Court, the following passed the first examination:—

Coates, George Alexander Augustus, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Green, Thomas Henry, University College
Jackson, George, University College
Knight, Charles Frederick, Charing Cross Hospital
Knott, Thomas Henry, Guy's Hospital
Langworthy, George Vincent, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Lush, Wm. George Vawdrey, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Read, Charles, University College
Viant, Henry, Guy's Hospital

Admitted on July 28th:—

Burn, John, Dartford
Coombs, Carey Pearce, Frome
Fernandes, Albert Luis, Sandal Magna
Gannon, John Palmer, London
Fry, John Blount, General Hospital, Birmingham
Jones, John Thomas, Tremadoc, North Wales
Martindale, John Walker, Windermere
Mudge, Belling Harvey, Bodmin
Ringrose, Basil, Potters Bar, Middlesex
Shillitoe, Richard, Hitchin

APPOINTMENTS.

BARNES, Thomas H., M.D., appointed House-Surgeon to the Newark-on-Trent Dispensary, in the room of J. Cheesman, M.D.

BELL, Oswald Home, M.D., appointed Professor of Medicine in the University of St. Andrew's, in the room of *George E. Day, M.D., resigned.

EDMUNDSON, Joseph, M.D., appointed Assistant Resident Medical Officer of the Clonmel Auxiliary Lunatic Asylum.

HORTON, George O., M.D., appointed Medical Officer to the E Division of the Metropolitan Police.

*MARTYN, Samuel, M.D., re-elected Physician to the Bristol General Hospital.

*SKINNER, Thomas, M.D., elected Physician to the Orphan Girls' Asylum, Liverpool.

TAYLOR, George, M.D., appointed Surgeon to attend to Physicians' Cases at the Derbyshire General Infirmary, in the room of *O. B. Shore, M.D.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE.

GALLOWAY, James, M.D., to the Ireby District of the Wigton Union, Cumberland.

GRATTAN, M.H., M.D., to No. 4 District of the Ongar Union, Essex.
HEGINBOTHAM, Edmund, M.D., to the Bruton District of the Wincanton Union, Somerset.

SHIRLEY, Henry J., Esq., to the Bedford District of the Horne Union, Suffolk.

SOMERVILLE, James H., Esq., to the Bloxwich District of the Walsall Union, Staffordshire.

ARMY.

ALLEN, Surgeon R. M., 3rd Dragoon Guards, to be Surgeon-Major, having completed 20 years' full-pay service.
 ARMSTRONG, Staff-Assistant-Surg. W., to be Assist.-Surg. 25th Foot.
 BALL, Staff-Assistant-Surg. T., M.D., to be Assist.-Surg. 36th Foot.
 HENSMAN, Staff-Assistant-Surg. W., to be Assist.-Surg. 20th Foot.
 LAND, Staff-Assistant-Surg. J., M.D., to be Assist.-Surg. 21st Foot.
 WALKER, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon H., to be Assist.-Surg. 19th Foot.

To be Staff-Surgeons:—

McDERMOTT, Surgeon P. A., 3rd West India Regiment.
 MARTIN, Surgeon C., 2nd West India Regiment.
 MORPHEW, Surgeon A., 1st West India Regiment.
 SKEEN, Surgeon W., M.D., 4th West India Regiment.

To be Staff-Assistant-Surgeons:—

BOULTON, Assistant-Surgeon E. J., 2nd West India Regiment.
 CARDELL, Assistant-Surgeon G., 3rd West India Regiment.
 DAVIDGE, Assistant-Surgeon G. A., 1st West India Regiment.
 FLYNN, Assistant-Surgeon T. P., 4th West India Regiment.
 GRANT, Assistant-Surgeon E. B., M.D., 4th West India Regiment.
 GREIG, Assistant-Surgeon J., M.D., 2nd West India Regiment.
 FARR, Assistant-Surgeon K. J., 1st West India Regiment.
 WALES, Assistant-Surgeon J., 2nd West India Regiment.

ROYAL NAVY.

ARNOTT, James W., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Liffey*.
 CANN, Thomas, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Recruit*.
 GROSE, Samuel, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Dauntless*.
 MACIVER, Donald, Esq., Acting Assistant-Surg., to the *Rattlesnake*.
 NATHAN, Henry F., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Hibernia*, for service at the Malta Hospital.
 WHITAKER, Joseph, Esq., Acting Assist.-Surg., to the *Rattlesnake*.
 WHITLEY, Alfred W., Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Geyser*.

MARRIAGE.

At Gillingham, Kent, on July 30th, John Henry Morton, Esq., to Eleanor Childs, daughter of *James Dulvey, L.R.C.P.(Edin.), of New Brompton, Chatham.

DEATHS.

BARCLAY. On June 16th, at Mercara, Madras, aged 40, Emma Berry, wife of Charles Barclay, Esq., Surgeon 25th Regiment N.I.
 BARKER, F. O., M.D., H.M.'s 90th Regiment, at Meerut, on June 9.
 CAPEI. On July 15, at Florence, Emma, wife of Lorenzo Capei, M.D.
 CARTER, William F., M.D., at Haslar, aged 79, on July 23.
 DUSAUTOY, Henry, M.D., at Southampton, aged 54, on July 19.
 GRAY, John, Esq., Surgeon, at 25, Old Burlington Street, aged 76, on July 22.
 GREEN. On July 25th, at Brighton, aged 71, Persis, widow of the late John L. Green, Esq., Surgeon, of Lewisham.
 HOPE, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon William A., M.D., in New Zealand, aged 28, on May 4.
 WALLICH, Surgeon N. D. S., H.M.'s 1st Bengal Cavalry, at Dugshai, Simla, on June 9.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY. The Library will be closed from Monday, Aug. 17th, to Saturday, Sept. 12th, both days inclusive.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL. Scholarships have been awarded to the following gentlemen at the close of the winter and summer examinations:—S. Hall; H. Mackintosh; F. W. Richards; L. Powell; F. Bateman; R. Robinson; T. Cuddeford.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. We understand that at the late examination in science at the London University, about one-third of the candidates were rejected; that is to say, only about thirty-three out of ninety-six passed the muster-roll.

GARIBALDI'S WOUND. Dr. Occhipinti states that the wound in Garibaldi's foot is completely cicatrised; and that the General now takes horse-exercise. He expects that in two months, Garibaldi will be able to get about without crutches.

EXTRAORDINARY LONGEVITY. The obituary of *The Times* of July 22nd, contained the names of five gentlemen and one lady whose united ages amounted to 512 years, giving an average of 85 years and four months to each, the eldest being 88 and the youngest 83; the lady was 86.

THE NEW MEDICAL ACT. The Committee of the United Society of Chemists and Druggists have decided to offer the most strenuous and determined opposition to this measure, and invite the general cooperation of the trade. (*Chem. News*.)

PAUPER LUNATICS ASYLUM BILL. On Friday week this Bill was read a second time in the House of Lords; and the standing orders having been suspended, it was immediately afterwards read a third time and passed.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS. Mr. Lawson has given notice that early next session he will move for leave to introduce a Bill enabling owners and occupiers of property, within certain limits, to prohibit the common sale of intoxicating liquors.

THE PORTRAIT OF DR. TURNBULL, painted by subscriptions of the governors of Huddersfield Hospital, was at the late annual meeting suspended in the Board Room of the Hospital—a memento of his lengthened and valuable services rendered to the hospital.

PRESERVATION OF MEAT. It is worth knowing at this time of the year that meat may be kept sweet for a long time in an atmosphere strongly impregnated with acetic acid. The meat is placed on a wooden support, or suspended, in a close vessel, on the bottom of which some strong acetic acid is poured. (*Dingler's Polytec. Jour.*)

POISONING BY COMMON POTASH. Dr. Lankester, on the 28th ult., held an inquest on a woman who committed suicide with the common potash of the oil-shops. Here is another article to be added to the list of poisons in the next bill, and to be only retailed in a hexagonal bottle with five sides fluted! (*Chem. News*.)

SEIZURE OF ADULTERATED YEAST. The Sanitary Officer of Hull seized last week some German yeast which contained an admixture of clay, and the magistrates ordered it to be destroyed. Although there may be some doubt as to the legality of this proceeding, there can be no doubt that this is the only way to stop adulterations; and it is to be regretted that it cannot be followed in the case of more pernicious mixtures. (*Chem. News*.)

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON. The Council have conferred on Mr. Henry Thompson, in consideration of long and valuable service as assistant-surgeon, the title of Surgeon to the Hospital. The appointment of another assistant-surgeon was resolved on by next October. Dr. Russell was appointed assistant to Professor Williamson in giving the Birkbeck evening course of instruction in chemistry for persons engaged in manufactures and like pursuits.

INVALIDS IN THE AMERICAN FEDERAL ARMY. Already, in the progress of the war, the number of soldiers discharged from service upon the surgeon's certificate amounts to considerably more than one hundred thousand, while the average constant percentage sick in hospitals from other causes than wounds, in all our armies, is probably about seven per cent. of the entire force. (*American Medical Times*.)

POISONING BY CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE. When a solution of corrosive sublimate is placed upon a bright piece of gold and touched with an iron point, it undergoes decomposition, a thin film of metallic mercury being deposited on the surface of the precious metal. Dr. J. C. Johnston of Baltimore, by the practical application of this fact, has succeeded in saving the life of a gentleman in that city who had swallowed two scruples of the bichloride of mercury. In less than half an hour afterwards he had given his patient a bolus composed of half a book of gold leaf having previously sprinkled a drachm of iron reduced by hydrogen between its leaves. This dose was retained but a short time, when it was repeated with the happiest results; the vomiting and distress ceased; and the man recovered rapidly under the ordinary treatment for gastritis. Dr. Johnston thinks that, if the gold leaf had been rubbed in a mortar with bright iron filings and the mixture given with water, it would have been more speedily successful than the plan he adopted in his hurry. (*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal*, May 7th.)

MAGIC IN SPAIN. A woman has been arrested at Barcelona for practising magic, and in the very act of making cabalistic conjurations. In her apartment were found philtres to produce affection, pills to ensure long life, powders to produce death, a magical cat, entirely black with the exception of the required tuft of white at the end of the tail, and a quantity of diabolical emblems. All this in the second half of the nineteenth century!

CRIMINAL LUNATICS IN IRELAND. The last Report of the Gaol Inspector in Ireland tells us that the gaols have been generally healthy, and the inmates free from contagious disease. The inspectors state that every one of the abuses with regard to the treatment of lunatics detailed in their last report is still in force. They are still brought to gaols tied down with ropes on cars; and, among the numbers committed from union workhouses, sometimes very distressing cases occur.

SEIZURE OF UNWHOLESOME MEAT. The new Act to amend the Nuisance Removal Act of England, 1855, with respect to the seizure of unwholesome meat, has been printed, and is now in force. By it an inspector of nuisances or a medical officer of health may seize not only meat, but all articles intended for human consumption, exposed for sale or in course of preparation, which may be unfit for human food. Magistrates are empowered to inflict a fine of not more than £20 on offenders, or commit to prison for three months. Any persons obstructing the officers are liable to be fined £5.

IRON IN THE STARS. Merz has communicated a few notes on the construction of the spectroscope and kindred subjects, which are worthy of attention. The author in the first place gives a *resumé* of the results of Fraunhofer with the spectra of fixed stars, and then quotes very briefly from a memoir of Professor Donati, of Florence, which describes the spectra of Sirius, Vega, Procyon, Regulus, Fomalhaut, Castor, Altair, Capra, Arcturus, Pollux, Aldebaran, Rigel, and Antares. From these observations it appears probable, according to Merz, that iron plays the chief part in the atmosphere of all these stars. (*Chemical News.*)

BURNETT'S DISINFECTING FLUID. A correspondent of the *Times* writes: "It is said there have been upwards of twenty cases of twenty of death from taking Burnett's fluid by mistake for medicine. In the last melancholy case, the unfortunate sufferer had taken a whole wine-glassful of the fluid instead of Dinneford's fluid magnesia. On stating the circumstance to a chemist, I learnt that my poor friend's life might probably have been saved had carbonate of soda been quickly administered *ad libitum*, as it would have immediately decomposed the chloride of zinc into insoluble carbonate of zinc and common salt. Carbonate of zinc is a white inert powder, which will do no harm; and my friend verified his statement experimentally, by adding to a sufficient quantity of the fluid a strong solution of carbonate of soda. He tasted the product, and I followed his example. The flavour was saline only, without a trace of causticity. The fell poison had become a harmless compound."

INDIAN SANITARY COMMISSION. In reply to a question from Sir H. Verney, whether the two volumes folio containing the report of the Indian Army Sanitary Commission would be presented to the House of Commons, Lord Stanley said the report of the commission and a summary of the evidence in octavo form had been circulated among members. There was a larger publication, in two volumes folio, containing the report, the evidence, and a voluminous appendix; but he could not say whether it would be circulated among the members as a body, or supplied only to those who asked for it. The latter course would probably be taken, but it rested not with the chairman, but with the head of the Indian Department, to decide that question. Sir C. Wood said the report had for some time been laid on the table of the House.

THE AUCKLAND LUNATIC ASYLUM. The condition of these unfortunate inmates is greatly to be pitied; cooped up within narrow yards or cells, they are merely prisoners—vacant, idle, "raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame." The nuisance of the asylum is severely felt, and bitterly complained of by the inhabitants of the Grafton suburb, and its speedy removal to a suitable locality, and establishment on a scientific basis, have become imperious necessities. As matters are at present, medical treatment suitable for insane persons is impracticable, and so crowded has the asylum become that, until increased accommodation is obtained, all new cases are under the necessity of being sent to the town gaol. (*New Zealander.*)

HOSPITAL FOR THE CURE OF STONE, ETC. At the annual festival of this new establishment, Lord Campbell is reported to have eloquently enforced the value of special hospitals, and particularly were they essential for the alleviation of that class of disease with which the institution in Great Marylebone Street was intended to cope. In proof of that, he might mention that, whereas in the general hospitals deaths from stone far exceeded the deaths from any other cause, in their hospital not a single death had occurred. In conclusion, the noble lord referred to the mysterious causes of the disease of stone as furnishing a most cogent argument in support of an institution which supplied the medical profession with the surest data for the resolution of a most difficult problem.

THE OLDEST MARRIED COUPLE IN THE WORLD. There are living at Marulan, in this colony, says the *Sydney Empire*, two persons, husband and wife, aged respectively 111 and 107 years. They are extremely feeble and bedridden, but are in possession of both sight and hearing. They were able to move about until lately, and formerly were extremely active in their habits. The old lady attempts to speak when she is addressed, but cannot make herself understood by strangers. Her utterance is so thick and inarticulate as to be little more than a few unmeaning sounds. The old man, however, although the eldest by four years, and usually lying in an apparently unconscious state, rouses himself occasionally, and can then speak so as to be easily understood. On the occasion of a visit to him a few days since of a gentleman who has known him for many years, the old man, when his arm was lifted by a person in attendance, to show the condition to which he was wasted, suddenly remarked—"That was an arm once," and quickly relapsed into his usual state. The old man arrived in the first fleet, in 1778, and has consequently been seventy-five years in the colony.

MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY. In Dr. Laycock's class of Medical Psychology and Mental Diseases, at the University of Edinburgh, at the examinations held in July 1863, for certificates of proficiency, the following questions were propounded conjointly by the Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland and Dr. Laycock:—1. Give a synopsis and brief description of the different forms of mania. 2. State the physiognomical aspect, symptoms, and treatment of acute melancholia. 3. Discriminate between illusions, hallucinations, and delusions; and illustrate by examples. 4. What are the most common cerebral lesions found after death from general paralysis? 5. When may insanity be regarded as incurable? 6. Under what conditions would you feed the insane artificially? Describe the processes followed; and state the reasons for preferring any particular process. 7. What results may be expected to follow from the efforts now being made for the education of idiots and imbeciles? 8. State how a practitioner should proceed in diagnosing the mental condition of a person presumed to be insane, and what precautions are needed in forming and expressing an opinion. 9. A clinical report on a case examined by the candidate at an asylum.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF MEDICINE. The annual distribution of prizes took place on Monday, July 27th. The following gentlemen were the successful candidates:—*Anatomy*—*Silver Medal*, Mr. Charles F. Knight; *First Certificate*, Mr. Henry Willson; *Second ditto*, Mr. Frederick Le F. Milburn; *Third ditto*, Mr. John W. Jones; *Bronze Medal*, Mr. Wm. G. Sutcliffe; *Certificates*, Mr. A. R. Verity and Mr. R. Y. V. Packman. *Chemistry*—*Silver Medal*, Mr. Other W. Berry. *Medicine*—*Certificates*, Mr. Thomas Langston and Mr. C. F. Knight. *Physiology*—*Silver Medal*, Mr. C. F. Knight; *Bronze Medal*, Mr. O. W. Berry. *Surgery*—*Silver Medal*, Mr. Edward Dyer; *Certificate and Book*, Mr. William B. Shorto; *Bronze Medal*, Mr. W. G. Sutcliffe. *Materia Medica*—*Silver Medal*, Mr. Allen Fennings; *Certificate*, Mr. H. Willson. *Botany*—*Silver Medal*, Mr. O. W. Berry. *Midwifery*—*Silver Medal*, Mr. J. H. Simpson; *Certificate*, Mr. W. H. Cope. *Forensic Medicine*—*Silver Medal*, Mr. J. H. Simpson; *Certificate*, Mr. W. H. Cope.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON. The result of the class examinations for the summer term of the Faculty of Medicine was ascertained at a meeting of professors and students held on Friday, July 31st, in the botanical theatre of the College, Professor Sharpey, M.D., Dean of the Faculty, in the chair, and announced as follows:—*Materia Medica*. *Gold Medal and First Certificate*, Frederic B. Nunneley, of Burton-on-Trent; *First Silver Medal and Second Certificate*, Philip B. Mason, of Burton-on-Trent; *Second Silver Medal and Third Certificate*, Francis J. Grose, of Dinapore, Bengal; *Certificates*: 4, Andrew Stuart, of Bridgetown, Barbadoes; 5, James J. Coxeter, of London; 6, Richard M. Pryce, of Caersws, Montgomeryshire; 7, Frederick T. Coates, of Islington. *Pathological Anatomy*. *Gold Medal and First Certificate*, Alexander Bruce, of London; *Certificates*: 2, P. Vaudagne, of the Mauritius; 3, Walter Smith, of Bognor. *Medical Jurisprudence*. *Gold Medal and First Certificate*, Alexander Bruce; *Silver Medal and Second Certificate*, Andrew Stuart; *Certificates*: 3, Henry C. Wigg, of Geelong; 4, Walter Smith; 5, George W. Rigden, of Canterbury. *Practical Chemistry*. *Gold Medal and First Certificate*, James S. Cluff, of Kildare, Ireland; *Certificates*: 2, Frederick J. Buckell, A.A., of Romsey; 3, William Hoffmeister, of Cowes; 4, William R. Davies, of Carmarthen; 5, George V. Poore; 6, R. Forbes Carpenter, of London. *Midwifery*. *Gold Medal and First Certificate*, F. B. Nunneley; *First Silver Medal and Second Certificate*, G. Griffiths, of Alltwen; *Second Silver Medal and Third Certificate*, William Ackerman, of St. Just, Cornwall; *Certificates*, 4, Charles Bradley; 5, F. G. Grose; 6, R. Alex. Busby, of Leamington; 7, G. W. Rigden. *Botany*. *Silver Medal and First Certificate*, Charles J. H. Smith, of London; *Certificates*: 2, W. Hoffmeister; 3, (eq.) F. J. Buckell, W. C. Cass, of Cowes, Frederick C. Bennett.

ACTION ON AN AGREEMENT: BENNETT v. HICKSON. This action was tried in the Midland Circuit at Nottingham on July 21st, before Mr. Justice Williams. The plaintiff was a surgeon practising at Worksop, and he brought this action for the breach of an agreement, by which the defendant promised that he and his co-executor, William George Beardsall, would use their best endeavours to establish the plaintiff in the business of Thomas Langley Beardsall, which the plaintiff had bought of them. Mr. Beardsall, a general practitioner, at Worksop, died in 1858, leaving the defendant, John Hickson, who is a surveyor and land agent at Worksop, and his own brother, William George Beardsall, who is also a general practitioner at the same place, his executors. His lordship, on summing up, remarked that it was admitted that Mr. Hickson had done all that was required of him, and that there was no ground of complaint whatever against him. He had, however, agreed for the acts of his co-executor as well as himself; and

the plaintiff was entitled to a verdict, if the jury were of opinion that Mr. William George Beardsall had not done that which Mr. Hickson had agreed that he should do. To say of Mr. Bennett, as Mr. W. G. Beardsall had said, that he would soon have to leave Worksop because his charges were so high, and to become his rival for the office of medical attendant upon the Abbey Lodge and Sick Club, could hardly be looked upon as acts that were likely to assist Mr. Bennett in establishing himself in the testator's practice. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, with £100 damages.

THE LAST SPECIFIC CURE FOR DIPHThERIA, AND HOW TO PUFF IT. We some time back gave an account of Dr. Trideau's method, which consists in administering storax under the form of a syrup; but we now find in the *Revue Therapeutique* a paper by Dr. A. De Grand, Boulogne, late French Vice-Consul at Havannah, in which he mentions ice as an infallible specific. In March and April 1861, the disease in question broke out under an epidemic form. One of Dr. Grand's patients was seized with it; and as he could not immediately attend, owing to the severity of the case another physician was called in, who ordered emetics and aluminous gargles, which produced no effect. At length, Dr. De Grand came, and found the tonsils greatly swollen, and a false membrane covering them. He immediately administered small pieces of ice; and by the following morning the tumefaction of the tonsils had diminished by half, and the false membrane had nearly disappeared. That very evening she was enabled to take food. A few days after, her brother was seized with sore throat, presenting the same preliminary symptoms as those of his sister; but he, profiting by this example, without waiting for the doctor, at once took ice, and was rid of his sore throat in a few hours. Some days later, Dr. De Grand was summoned to a young lady who had been labouring under the disease for the last forty-eight hours; all remedies had failed; and the parents, relations, and friends of the family were plunged in the deepest sorrow. When Dr. De Grand ordered ice, a general cry of astonishment was uttered by all present. Ice for a sore-throat! impossible! it was sheer murder! Dr. De Grand maintained his ground; and, after much expostulation, during which much time was lost, he obtained his end. Before twenty-four hours were over, the patient was in full convalescence. Being at Vera Cruz on a mission, he was requested to see a young man who was attacked with malignant sore-throat, and had been treated without effect by cauterisations with hydrochloric acid and astringent gargles. Here, again, he had to battle with the prejudices of the family; but was at length allowed to administer ice. The young man recovered in the course of the following day. Dr. De Grand has now been using this remedy for the last twelve years without having met with a single failure. This is what he says; but even if only half of what he says were true, the method should be tried by others. Cold gargles have been employed with success by Dr. Blanc of Strasbourg; why not ice? (*Galignani's Messenger*.)

DISEASE AMONG SHEEP. On Friday, July 24th, Mr. D. Griffith called attention to the outbreak of disease among sheep in the west of England during the summer and autumn of last year. He described the first appearance of the disease on a farm in the neighbourhood of Devizes, in Wiltshire, stated that the remedy recommended by Professor Simmonds—inoculation—proved a failure, and narrated how the malady spread until it was arrested by Professor Gamgee, of Edinburgh, who substituted separation for inoculation. The results both of the practice of separation instead of inoculation, and of vaccination as a *dernier ressort*, were highly successful as far as present experience went. It was a year since this disease broke out; surely some conclusion as to the means of preventing this disease must have been arrived

at by the gentlemen who had conducted the experiments for the Government! The hon. member concluded by asking the question of which he had given notice—viz., whether the Government intended to take any steps for the prevention of the practice of the inoculation of sheep with the virus of sheep small-pox, or "variola ovina," for the presumed object of mitigating the disease, on the principle of the actual prohibition in force against such practice in the case of the human subject; and what had been the results of the Government experiments of trying the effects of vaccination as a preventive of the sheep small-pox on a certain number of sheep obtained by the Government for that purpose. Mr. Lowe regretted to say that the experiments which had been tried as to the vaccination of sheep by Mr. Marsden and Professor Simmonds during the last six months had turned out unsatisfactorily. Had they proved satisfactory they would have been terminated before now; but before a negative decision was pronounced, many attempts had, of course, to be made. He therefore could give no decisive answer as to these experiments, except that they afforded little hope of extending to sheep or any other animal the same remedy as was found efficacious in the case of the human subject. As to inoculation, the experience of the late epidemic in Wiltshire was much against it, because in those flocks where inoculation was used, 20 per cent. of the sheep died, whereas in those where it was not used only 1·6 died. It was a question, however, whether it would be right absolutely to prohibit a man from inoculating sheep which were his own property, provided he took the precaution of separating them from other sheep in order to prevent the spread of the disease. But that question must be considered in connection with the general question of the diseases of cattle, which would have to be examined during the recess. He might, however, observe that there was reason to believe that farmers could not do a more imprudent thing than to inoculate their sheep.

Varieties.

POISONOUS SPIDERS. We find it necessary to caution our readers against sitting on certain places until they have ascertained that no spiders are lurking in the locality; another narrow escape from death, similar to that recorded in our last Friday's issue, having come under our notice. It appears that a woman residing on the Flat was bitten on the lower part of the body, on Sunday last, by a black tarantula, and that shortly afterwards she was attacked with violent pains in the loins and chest. The symptoms increasing by eleven o'clock at night, Dr. Carr was called in to administer relief. He found the action of the heart much impeded, violent pains extending from the head to the feet, the eyelids swollen, and violent fever in the region of the lungs—in short, the woman was dying rapidly. Dr. Carr applied remedies which produced profuse perspiration, resulting in the destruction of the virus and cessation of the pains. It was not, however, until Tuesday evening that the woman was out of danger, when her face presented a most extraordinary sight, the eyelids being swollen to a considerable size, and the features generally being very much distorted. One or two other cases of the same kind have been reported to us, but they do not seem to have been so serious as the two cases we have recorded. (*Talbot Leader.*)

THE CONSERVATION OF FORCE. We recognise that matter can never be destroyed, nor created. The principle we refer to, asserts the same of what we term *force*. The apparent conversion of one force into another, where this can be observed, supports the doctrine in a very remarkable manner. In other instances, if we assume

the conservation of force still to hold good, our present knowledge and means of observation are at fault, and new fields of intellectual research and discovery are clearly indicated. We may raise a heavy mass of metal, say a hammer, to a certain height, and allow it to fall on a small cube of cast lead or annealed copper. To raise the hammer, a certain exertion of force is necessary; the equivalent of this force is produced when the mass is allowed to fall through an equal distance. By the concussion, the cube of lead, or even that of copper, will be found to be compressed and flattened to a certain extent. Now it might be said that the force,—that of momentum, in the hammer, had been expended in producing this effect; and the expression, correct enough in its ordinary sense, might be taken to signify that this force, originally generated by physiological action, had thus entirely disappeared, and was destroyed or annihilated. But if we now bring the fragment of lead or of copper in contact with phosphorus the latter will be inflamed. Another force, that of heat, has been generated; and careful experiment tends to prove that this will be the exact equivalent of the force exerted in the first instance. The latent heat evolved from the metal may now be absorbed by a portion of the atmosphere, in which it may again become latent, producing at the same time the effect of expansion. In the reduction of metal from its oxide, heat is absorbed; in the oxidation of a metal, heat is evolved. In either case, the quantity of heat bears a constant proportion to that of the particular metal operated upon. We know that another force besides heat is produced by oxidising a metal, such as zinc or cadmium, under certain conditions, viz, in the voltaic battery. The doctrine of the conservation of force indicates that the *electricity* thus produced should correspond to the whole, or to a portion, of the heat which would otherwise be evolved by the oxidation or combustion of the metal. (*Electrician.*)

THE HOSPITALS OF VENICE. "In these I have been greatly disappointed, as they are vastly larger and better managed than I had supposed. The large Civil Hospital at Venice stands on the banks of one of the principal canals, near the church of San Giovanni e Paolo; it dates as far back as 1485, and consists of the magnificent buildings of the Scuola di San Marco, a religious order devoted to the care of the sick and poor of the city. The buildings are somewhat irregular, but very spacious, and were devoted to their present purposes after the fall of the republic. The whole establishment is capable of accommodating from 1,500 to 2,000 patients. The entrance is through a wide and high hall, with splendid marble floors and columns, beautifully carved wood ceilings and frescoes; and the wards, which are between one and two hundred feet long, with very high ceilings, are grouped around six large court-yards, in one of which is the sarcophagus of Marino Faliero, the decapitated Doge. There are sixty-two halls or wards admitting of extensive classification. There are, for example, lying-in wards, syphilitic wards, fever wards, wards for diseases of children, for female lunatics, for ophthalmic cases, for medical and surgical diseases. One of the principal physicians conducted me over every part of the establishment, and explained everything minutely. In some of the wards there were four rows of patients, owing to repairs going on in the building. Still, I doubt not there were over 1,200 cubic feet of space to every bed, owing to the great height of the ceilings. Every part was scrupulously neat and clean, and the utmost order and system everywhere prevailed. There are 1,000 patients in the buildings, under the charge of 11 principal surgeons and physicians, 14 assistant surgeons, 16 sisters of charity, 8 apothecaries, 1 director or acting principal, and 1 director-general. There are two classes of patients, pauper and pay. Of the latter are three grades: those supported by the district or commune to which

they belong, who pay 55 cents per day; a class of private patients who pay 40 cents per day; and a superior class, who have better accommodations, and who pay 88 cents. In the court-yards are nine cisterns, for rain-water, and one artesian well. This is forty-five *metres* deep, and the water has a taste of sulphuretted hydrogen. Children under seven occupy the basement, which struck me as very damp and unhealthy. The little patients all had a miserable, pale, sad, and sickly look. The apothecary apartment, as in all Italian hospitals, was on a large and splendid scale, and admirably managed. The buildings are of two stories, and the whole thrown into large wards, one of which was devoted to cases of pellagra. All were extremely clean, quiet, and well ventilated." (*Lee.*)

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 Orthopaedic, 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.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY. Royal Botanical Society (Anniversary).

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.

A QUESTION OF ETIQUETTE.—SIR: May I ask the favour of your opinion upon the following case?

C. D., a physician in a county town, is medical superintendent of a railway there. His duties are—"To visit immediately any persons who may be injured on the line. To provide surgical assistance for any one requiring it. To give pecuniary assistance to such persons as are prevented from following their employment, and are too poor to keep themselves. And to note carefully the character, etc., of the injuries, so as to prevent the company being imposed upon."

An accident happened on Friday afternoon. Two persons injured in it were removed to their homes in a country village by the next train. The village surgeon (A. B.) was sent for, and saw them. The next morning, a telegraph from the company's secretary informed C. D. of their names and address, and requested him to see them forthwith. He called, announced his name and reason for calling, asked permission to see the patients, went upstairs, and was then informed by the patients themselves that A. B. was in attendance. C. D. made a cursory examination; said he would not, of course, interfere with the treatment: received from the patients an intimation of cordial thanks; and immediately called upon A. B., to ask him to appoint a consultation for another day. It will be observed that C. D. was in entire ignorance of the attendance of A. B. until it was told to him by the patients themselves; that his visit then ceased to be medical, and was purely ministerial, to obtain information for the company, his employers; and that he took the earliest possible opportunity of communicating with A. B., and that he would not, until after such communication, give any medical opinion as to either the nature or the treatment of the case.

A. B. says C. D.'s conduct was "irregular." C. D. contends that it was strictly professional; could not have had any other course; and was fair and courteous to A. B.

July 25th, 1863.

I am, etc.,

X. Y. Z.

[Our opinion is, that in a case of this kind, C. D., having discovered that the patients were under the charge of A. B., should not have visited them further without the consent and knowledge of A. B. As the case is one of some general importance, we will give our reasons for this opinion in an early number of the JOURNAL. EDITOR.]

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Mr. AUGUSTIN PRICHARD; Dr. REYNOLDS; Mr. WM. OWEN; Mr. T. M. STONE; Mr. GASCOYNE; Mr. CROSSE; Mr. G. W. HASTINGS; Mr. HENRY LEE; Dr. W. NEWMAN; Dr. W. BUDD; Mr. JAMES DULVEY; and Dr. J. A. SYMONDS.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE following Laws of the Association will be strictly enforced:—

15. The subscription to the Association shall be One Guinea annually; and each member on paying his subscription shall be entitled to receive the publications of the Association of the current year. The subscriptions shall date from the 1st of January in each year, and shall be considered as due unless notice of withdrawal be given in writing to the Secretary on or before the 25th of December previous. If any member's subscription remain unpaid twelve months after it shall have become due, the publications of the Society shall be withheld from such member until his arrears be paid.

16. The name of no member shall remain on the books of the Association, whose arrears extend over three years; but the omission of the name from the list of members shall not be deemed, either in honour or equity, to relieve any member from his liability for the subscriptions due for the period during which he has availed himself of the privileges of membership.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., General Secretary.
Worcester, June 1863.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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TESTIMONIALS.

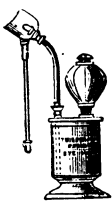
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