

the preface to the French edition, written by Troussau, is announced. A sixth edition of Neligan's *Medicines, their Uses, etc.*, is forthcoming, under Mr. Macnamara's care; and also a new edition of his *Materia Medica*, by Mr. Frazer. Mr. M. Collis is reported to be busied with the elaboration of a work on *Cancers and Analogous Tumours*. Dr. Apjohn has also a manual on the *History of the Metalloids*.

The Academy of Medicine has in one week lost two of its members, MM. Villermé and Pâtissier. Both of them have belonged to the Academy forty years.

#### THE LATE EDWARD. TOWNSEND COX, ESQ.

MR. EDWARD TOWNSEND Cox died at Birmingham on the 26th ult. Mr. Cox, until within the last few weeks, notwithstanding his great age, was constantly to be seen in the streets, walking with a firm elastic step, or driving in his pony carriage. His tall, commanding figure, slightly bowed by the weight of years, attracted general attention whenever he appeared in public. His long connection with the local charities, his reputation as a surgeon, and his singular independence not to say eccentricity, of character, had come to be regarded in the light of one of the institutions of the town. Mr. Cox was born in Deritend about 1769 or 1770. His father, the Rev. Thomas Cox, was Chaplain of St. John's Deritend.

Mr. Cox was educated at the Free Grammar School, and afterwards studied for five years at the General Hospital—then newly opened—under George Kennedy, the eminent surgeon. He then became a student at Guy's and St. Thomas's. On the completion of his studies, Mr. Cox settled at Stratford-on-Avon; but, finding a country life unsuited to his taste, he shortly removed to Birmingham. Here he speedily took high position amongst his professional brethren. He was for forty years surgeon to the Town Infirmary, and one of the surgeons to the General Dispensary. Later in life he took a very active part in establishing the Royal School of Medicine, and still later the Queen's College and Queen's Hospital owed much to his judgment and energy. Of the last-named institution he was for many years one of the honorary surgeons, an office he retained until his death. His interest in Queen's College was second only to that displayed by the founder, his son, whom he liberally assisted with funds to establish the institution. In addition to these appointments Mr. Cox had medical charge of the hospital at the barracks.

Of Mr. Cox's professional ability and reputation this is scarcely the proper place to speak. He was thoroughly learned in the science and practice of his art, and was largely endowed with those great qualifications of a good surgeon—clearness and quickness of perception, decision of character, and firmness of purpose. He was specially remarkable as a most successful surgeon accoucheur. To the honour of his memory it should also be recorded that when Jenner's great discovery was virulently opposed, Mr. Cox took an active part in combatting popular prejudice. In short, as a surgeon, he was worthy to be enrolled in the long list of eminent practitioners who have done honour to Birmingham—the Johnstones, Bright, Pearson, Withering, Freer, Dickenson, and Wood. In all his dealings he was remarkable for that high sense of professional etiquette which especially stamped the character of the times and the school to which he belonged.

## Association Intelligence.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BIRMINGHAM AND MID-LAND COUNTIES. [Ordinary.]	Medical Department of the Birmingham Library.	December 10th, 6 P.M.

### PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS: SPECIAL NOTICE.

MEMBERS who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the present year are earnestly desired to remit them to the General Secretary before the end of December. Their attention is directed to the following laws of the British Medical Association.

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 subscription shall date from the 1st 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.

10. 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.

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, *General Secretary.*

13, Newhall Street, Birmingham, December 1st, 1863.

### SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT MEDICAL MEETINGS.

THE tenth meeting was held at the Fountain Hotel, Canterbury, on November 26th. Several members attended from Dover, Folkestone, Ashford, Faversham, and other places. J. REID, Esq., of Canterbury, was called to Chair.

A letter was read from Dr. Armstrong, regretting his unavoidable absence.

Next Meeting. Mr. BOWLES proposed that the meeting on March 24th, 1864, should be held at Ashford; also, that Mr. Wilks be requested to act as local chairman for that meeting. This was seconded by Mr. ANDREWS, and carried.

*Papers.* The following papers were read:—

1. On Drowning. By R. L. Bowles, Esq. This paper, which will be arranged for publication in the JOURNAL, was brought forward to induce the members to consider the different ready methods recommended for the recovery of drowned persons. The author himself strongly advocated the Marshall Hall plan, and gave an interesting review of the whole subject. A partial discussion followed; and it is proposed to consider the subject again at the next meeting.

2. Mr. REID read some very interesting observations on Secondary Cow-Pox. He described the different appearances produced by second vaccination, according as persons were more or less protected by the first; and pointed out the analogy between those modified forms of cow-pox and the various modified forms of small-pox after vaccination. The paper will be forwarded for publication.

3. Case of Placenta Prævia, in which the Air Pessary was applied with good effect. By W. Sankey, Esq.

After the meeting, seventeen members dined together; Mr. Alderman Cooper of Canterbury presided.

I considered the present an opportune moment for forwarding you these two cases as bearing to some extent upon your late article of "Foul Air and Fevers."

I may here add, that so unsatisfactory have my humble individual efforts proved to discover causes for the various kinds of fevers that I have seen in my own practice during the last two or three years, that I have almost given up seeking them, and I have been satisfied that there exists now, and has existed for some time past, an unusual disposition to receive disease and I cannot tell why.

I would ask the cause of the sudden and deadly attack of influenza about the year 1836? of the cause of the cholera attack in 1849? of diphtheria for the last five or six years? A scientific explanation of course would be of immense advantage; but if we look to a knowledge of cause as a means of cure, I am afraid we are doomed to disappointment, for, so long as these apparently cyclical bearings of disease still go on, we shall only lose some to find others. Sanitary laws and regulations will doubtless greatly modify the mortality of these grave visitors, but I fear nothing will entirely check their approach.

I am, etc.,  
GEORGE F. GILES.

Victoria Park Road, Hackney, N.E., November 5th, 1863.

#### EFFECTS OF DISEASED MEAT.

LETTER FROM RICHARD W. MARTYN, Esq.

SIR,—I have lived more than forty years in this parish, which is chiefly agricultural; and during that time I have constantly observed and known farmers, whose cattle (chiefly beef and mutton) have been affected with various diseases and sometimes injured by accidents, to kill such animals and sell the meat at a low rate to their workmen and others. I have never known any illness or disease caused by eating the flesh of such animals, and were it not for the means of procuring animal food to which I have referred, the great majority of the labouring class would seldom taste it. If a bullock in good condition, suddenly attacked, say with peripneumonia, be immediately killed, I do not think the carcase much impaired. I am certain that it is not injurious to health if the animal have not been suffering long from the disease and have not been drenched and physicked. From experience, I know it is the wisest plan to kill the animal at once; for, if it recover it will be so reduced that it will not pay for the trouble and expense of keeping it. As the country from this place to Bridgwater and Taunton is often under water, our sheep are very liable to be diseased. The liver becomes affected with hydatids; and the vessels are filled with flukes. These sheep will often get fat; and although the mutton is certainly inferior, as it wants juiciness and flavour, yet to destroy this quantity of food would be a public calamity and perfect ruin to hundreds of farmers. There is another disease chiefly affecting hog-sheep or sheep one year old: this is giddiness, and arises from water on the brain. The animal had better be killed at once, as it never recovers, although I have known them live until the brain is nearly absorbed and the animal gets quite blind. If in good condition and killed early, the carcase is not much impaired, and certainly not injurious to health.

I think it would be a great public calamity if Mr. Gamgee's and the public inspectors' opinions were to be enforced, and nothing but prime fed animals allowed to be used as food: but sellers, I think, ought to be prosecuted for selling inferior meat for sound, which they often do and charge the highest prices for it.

Like most medical men living in the country, I do a little in grazing, and have for many years studied the diseases of cattle.

I am, etc., RICHARD W. MARTYN.

Martock, Somerset, Nov. 11, 1863.

## 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 Nov. 19th:—

Bell, Hutchinson R., Endsleigh Street, Tavistock Square  
Boulton, Albert Edward, Horncastle  
Ffrench, Thomas Edward Digby, Galway  
Fulton, John, M.D., Canada  
Hawthorn, Frederic John, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire  
Julius, George Frederic, Richmond  
Leach, Matthew, Wisbech  
Libbey, Henry Cornelius, Fulneck, near Leeds  
McNair, Frederic, London  
Moseley, Isaia, A., Newcastle  
O'Flynn, Andrew, Sligo  
Rogers, William Richard, Oxford  
Shuldrum, Edward Barton, Cheltenham  
Smith, Cleveland, Horsleydown  
Smith, Henry F., M.B., Cornwall Terrace, Regent's Park  
Stott, Thomas Lilley, Holloway  
Trenerry, Charles James, Gibraltar  
Von Stieglitz, Lewis Frederick, Tasmania  
Weller, George, Mile End Road  
Whipple, Connell, Plymouth

Admitted on November 20th:—

Atkinson, James, Hyde, near Manchester  
Baetcke, Emil Julius, M.D., Finsbury Square  
Bligh, Alexander Murray, Liverpool  
Cooke, Richard Edward, Southwell, Notts  
Diver, Ebenezer, M.D., Tately, Hants  
Fuller, James, Rectory Place, Woolwich  
Gwyther, James, M.B., Manchester  
Hayden, William G., High Wycombe  
Hedley, William Snowdon, M.D., Alnwick, Northumberland  
Leith, Ralph James Forbes, Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire  
Lichtenberg, Philipp J. L., M.D., Finsbury Square  
Nash, Frederic, Royston  
Ryder, Francis James, Greenwich  
Senior, Augustus Reeves, Richmond  
Vipan, William Henry, Ely, Cambridgeshire  
Watermeyer, William Godfrey, Cape of Hope

**Naval Surgeons.** The following members of the London College of Surgeons passed their examinations for full Surgeons in the Royal Navy, at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on November 19.

Kipling, Thomas, H.M.S. *Canopus*; diploma of membership dated April 15, 1859  
Skene, James Alexander, H.M.S. *Cumberland*; May 19, 1856  
Warren, Thomas Roberts, Plymouth Division of Royal Marines; December 15, 1852

**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.** Degrees of Master in Surgery conferred November 26th, 1863.

Burd, Edward, Caius College  
Graham, Arthur Robert, St. Peter's College

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.** On November 26th, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Everitt, Herbert, University College  
Forde, W. B., Queenstown  
Milner, J. F., Hull  
Seabrook, W. M., Brighton  
Ward, C., Tollerton, Nottinghamshire  
Miller, R. F., Barnstaple

#### APPOINTMENTS.

\*BLACK, C., M.D., elected Mayor of Chesterfield.  
BOARD, Edward C., Esq., elected House-Surgeon to the Bristol Royal Infirmary.  
COOPER, Herbert, Esq., elected Assistant House-Surgeon to the Bristol Royal Infirmary.  
CROFT, John, Esq., appointed Assistant-Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital.  
HALL, Cornelius S., Esq., appointed Certifying Factory Surgeon, Carlisle.  
HORGOD, T., Esq., elected Mayor of Chipping Norton.  
MAIN, William, M.D., appointed House-Surgeon to the Alnwick Infirmary.  
\*MORGAN, W. W., M.D., elected Mayor of Newport, Monmouthshire.  
NELSON, Samuel C., M.D., appointed Surgeon to Her Majesty's Household.  
O'CONNOR, M. J., L.R.C.P. Ed., elected Mayor of Morpeth.  
SISSON, Richard S., M.D., appointed Physician to the Royal General Dispensary, Bartholomew Close.

\*TURNOUR, A. E., M.D., elected Mayor of Denbigh.  
WALSHE, R., L.R.C.P.Ed., appointed Surgeon to the Carlisle Fever Hospital.  
WILLIS, G., M.D., elected Mayor of Monmouth.

## POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE.

BLACKFORD, John C., Esq., to the Cannock District of the Penkridge Union, Staffordshire.  
CARSON, Alexander T., M.D., to the Articlave Dispensary District of the Coleraine Union.  
COCKS, Benjamin, L.R.C.P.Edin., to the South-East District of the Buntingford Union, Herts.  
CORNET, Rae, Esq., to the Stanford District of the Orsett Union, Essex.  
FENDICK, Robert, Esq., to District No. 2 of the Bristol Corporation for the Poor.  
FRASER, Wm., Esq., to the Parish of Old Machar, Aberdeenshire.  
HOOD, William, Esq., to District No. 2 of the York Union.  
JAMES, Joshua, Esq., to District No. 3 of the Bristol Corporation for the Poor.  
MCARTHY, Joseph M., M.D., to the Tobercurry Dispensary District and the Workhouse of the Tobercurry Union, co. Sligo.  
MILES, Thomas, Esq., to the Stoke Gabriel and Dartington and Batteny Districts of the Totnes Union.  
PARSONS, Frederick J., L.R.C.P.Edin., to the Second District of the Yeovil Union.  
SOPPE, William E., T.F.P. and S., Glasg., to District No. 4 of the Guiltierross Union, Norfolk.  
TURNER, John S., Esq., to District No. 5 of the Mansfield Union, Nottinghamshire.  
WALTER, Walter W., Esq., to the Sixth District of the Yeovil Union.  
WABURTON, Edward, Esq., to the New Workhouse of the Pateley Bridge Union, Yorkshire.

## ARMY.

IRWIN, Assistant-Surg. C. G., M.D., 28th Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon.  
WOOD, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon T., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 45th Foot, *vice* R. Atkinson.

To be Staff-Assistant-Surgeon:—  
ATKINSON, Assistant-Surgeon R., 45th Foot.

## INDIAN ARMY.

ROSE, Surgeon J., Bengal Army, to be Surgeon-Major.

## ROYAL NAVY.

EVANS, Richard, Esq., Surgeon, to the *Rosario*.  
JOHNSON, W., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Impregnable*.  
KEENAN, C., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to Haslar Hospital.  
KELLY, A. H., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Fisgard*.  
WILLIAMS, Charles, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Cambridge*.

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

ALDERSEY, W. H., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st Surrey A.V.  
HELM, G. F., Esq., to be Surgeon 3rd Cambridgeshire R.V.  
MARSH, N. K., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st Administrative Brigade Lancashire A.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—  
DICKSON, J., Esq., 53rd Lancashire R.V.  
GRIFFIN, W. H., Esq., 3rd Oxfordshire R.V.

## DEATHS.

ALEXANDER, James, M.R.C.P.Ed., at Wooler, Northumberland, aged 66, on November 25th.  
AXFORD, Henry, Esq., Surgeon, at Bridgwater, aged 83, on Nov. 28.  
BIRKETT. On December 1st, at Northumberland House, Stoke Newington, aged 11 months, Rosa, youngest daughter of G. Birkett, M.D.  
BREAMAN, George H., Esq., Surgeon, late of Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, at Hammersmith, aged 39, on November 29.  
CASWALL. On November 25th, at Peckham, aged 90, Mary, widow of the late John Caswall, Esq., Surgeon, of Alvescott, Oxfordshire.  
COX, E. T., Esq., Surgeon, at Birmingham, aged 33, on Nov. 26.  
DUNN. On November 29th, at 31, Norfolk Street, Strand, aged 60, Anne Margaret, wife of \*Robert Dunn, Esq.  
ELLIS. On November 27th, at Crowle, Lincolnshire, of scarlatina, aged 6, Emily Beatrice, youngest daughter of \*Henry W. T. Ellis, L.R.C.P.Ed.  
KELSON. On November 29th, at Sevenoaks, aged 10, Hamilton Mortimer, sixth son of George Kelson, Esq.  
VIDAL. On November 28th, at Aveley, Essex, aged 2 years and 10 months, Charles L., only son of Wm. F. Vidal, Esq., Surgeon.

**DONATION.** Dr. Westall has presented to Croydon, the town where he lately resided, a Drinking Fountain.

**THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS** have commenced an inquiry into the state, etc., of Bethlehem and Bridewell Hospitals.

**THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS** intend to propose to the Legislature a Bill, entitled "The Veterinary Medical Act."

THE EDINBURGH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL contains three medical men: Dr. Alexander, Dr. Buchanan, and Mr. Miller.

**USURPATION OF TITLES.** A Mr. Denton of Clay Cross has been mulcted in the penalty of £5 and costs, for improperly using the title of Licentiate of Medicine.

**EDINBURGH SPECULATIVE SOCIETY.** Prince Alfred, and Prince William of Hesse, have been elected Members of the Farmers' Speculative Society of Edinburgh.

**ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES.** This institution has received a legacy of £2000 from the late Joshua Field, Esq.

**THE EXTRA-ACADEMICAL SCHOOLS OF EDINBURGH** have lost two lecturers: Dr. Murray Thomson, who goes to Roorkie; and Dr. John Struthers, who has gone to Aberdeen as Professor of Anatomy.

**RHEUMATISM IN PARIS.** The medical returns for the month of October give the most extraordinary increase of rheumatism in Paris. The hospitals are full of patients suffering from what a few years ago was called an "English disease."

**HYDROXYANIC ACID.** It was found by Dr. Matthiessen, in his investigations in reference to a recent poisoning case, that if 120 minims of prussic acid (*Pharm. Lond.*) containing 2 per cent. of pure acid, be mixed with a pint of *fresh* porter, the peculiar odour, and taste of the acid are entirely lost.

**THE BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA.** The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury who have the power under the Medical Act, of fixing the price per copy of the *British Pharmacopœia*, have determined that the price of the octavo size shall be 10s. 6d., and of the duodecimo size 6s.

**INFRINGEMENT OF THE LUNACY ACT.** A fine of £25, or two months' imprisonment, has been inflicted on Mr. Lawrie of Gilmer House, near Edinburgh, for "detaining, etc., lunatics" contrary to the Lunacy Act. The license of Gilmer House had been withdrawn by the Commissioners some time ago on account of the bad condition of the establishment.

**DELETERIOUS EFFECTS OF DISEASED MEAT.** The gentlemen appointed to investigate the cause of the spread of pleuropneumonia in Victoria could only discover one instance of diseased meat producing sickness, although cases are not uncommon; but, from the symptoms ceasing on discontinuing the meat, they very seldom come under the notice of medical men. (*Medical Review.*)

**LECTURESHIP VACANT.** *No one need apply.* The Council of the University of Melbourne have issued a notice, that a lecturer on surgery is wanted for the academic year 1864-65, and invite communications from gentlemen willing to accept the appointment. It is a pity that any gentleman should waste his time in applying; it has long since been decided who is to fill the post. (*Medical Record.*)

**HEALTH OF SCOTLAND.** The weather has been very close and moist, and typhus, typhoid fever, and diphtheria, have been prevailing over Scotland. Dundee Royal Infirmary has had two resident physicians cut off by typhus within four months, both being young men of high talent in their profession. One of them, Dr. Glen, who died first, had considerable literary and metaphysical ability and was the gainer, when at Edinburgh University, of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton's prize for the best essay on "The Influence of the Mind on the Body in Disease." Singularely enough, he was a candidate for the chair of anatomy in the University of St. Andrew's, and had a fair chance of it, but he died on the day of the election. A victim of diphtheria who fell on November 21st, was Mr. George Ross, professor of Scots law in the University of Edinburgh. He was appointed professor two years ago, and was only 48 years of age.

AN ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION—originally proposed by M. Engène Renu, and seconded by Doctor Farr, at the Statistical Congress of Berlin—is about to be established. It is proposed to found a series of colleges in England, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain, the students at which are to move about from university to university, finding always the same standing as that which they held in their last college, and continuing their education only with a change of language. There will be two classes of students, one commercial, the other scientific.

LIGHT WINES. In the eight months ended August 31st last, 6,750,000 gallons of wine were entered for home consumption at the various ports of the United Kingdom; compared with the corresponding months of last year the increase is 172,812 gallons. The produce of Portugal, Spain, and Italy seems most in favour, Spain especially, which has an aggregate larger by 267,944 gallons; while that of South Africa, Holland, and France has a much diminished return, which indicates that the lighter descriptions of wines, as yet introduced, have not received, to the extent anticipated, the public approval.

A POISONER. The *Berbice Gazette* states that an old man in Berbice, known as "Daddy Joe", has on his deathbed confessed to having had a part in an immense number of murders by poisoning, a crime which, there is reason to suspect, is but too common in the colony; almost every piece of bush-land yields the most subtle poisonous plants to those acquainted with them. He also told the place where a great quantity of valuable ornaments were to be found, which had been the hire of his services in these atrocities.

RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY, OXFORD. A special Court of the Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary was held on the 28th ult., when the Building Committee formally handed over possession of the south wing, which had been erected at a cost of about £6000. The Governors, with ladies and other subscribers, assembled in the new out-patients' hall. The Duke of Marlborough, President of the Institution, occupied the chair, and amongst those present were the Duchess of Marlborough, Lady A. Churchill, the Dean of Christ Church, the Vice-Chancellor, the Warden of All Souls', the Warden of Merton, the Provost of Worcester, the Master of University, the Warden of New College, the Rev. Canon Ogilvie, the Rev. F. Trench, Rev. J. Pullen, Rev. J. Dodd, Rev. O. Ogle, Dr. Acland, etc.

GUY'S HOSPITAL. The following prizes have been awarded. *Third Year's Students*: *Treasurer's Gold Medals for Clinical Medicine, and for Clinical Surgery, and First Prize (£40)*, Edward W. Thurston, Ashford, Kent; *Second Prize (£35)*, E. Baxter Formen, Derby;—*Second Year's Students*: *First Prize (£35)*, Henry G. Howse, Reading; *Second Prize (£30)*, not awarded. *First Year's Students*: *First Prize (£30)*, Henry Denne, Sandwich; *Second Prize (£25)*, James Rawlings, Liskeard; *Third Prize (£10 : 10)*, presented by one of the governors, William A. Brailey, Rochester; *Honorary Certificates*, John Gill, Weston, Hawkstone, Shrewsbury; Henry S. Taylor, Alton; Frederick E. Manby, Rudham.—*Entrance Examination in Classics, Mathematics, etc., October 1863*: *First Prize*, William B. Giles; *Second Prize*, Frederick Taylor; *Honorary Certificates*, George Rootes, Arthur B. Miott, Matthew O. Coleman.

MEDICAL REFORM. The intention of Dr. Ogle, in his paper read at the Social Science meeting, was to show that the present mode of dealing with members of the medical profession is found to be injurious both to the doctor and the patient, and to propose an arrangement which would be more convenient for both parties. The plan recommended was to dispense with the fee system, and to pay the doctor so much *per annum*, to include all ordinary work, and a fee to be paid for extraordinary

work. Ordinary work was defined to mean periodical visits, attending to the health of the patient, etc.; and extraordinary work was held to be such exceptional services as calls to attend on patients immediately, accidents, and so on. This arrangement, it was considered, would make prevention as well as cure the object of the doctor's care, and assimilate the interests of the physician and patient. (*Social Science Review*.)

A VICTIMISE OF MEDICAL MEN. Charles Dupré, a Prussian, has lately been sentenced to hard labour for nine months for stealing a silver lancet-case and two lancets, value seven shillings, the property of Edward Phillips. The prosecutor is a physician, living in Harley Street, and on the morning of October 30th the prisoner went to the house, and asked to see him. As the prosecutor was then engaged, the prisoner was requested to wait, and was shown into the study. Horsford, one of the constables of the Mendicity Society, had been watching him, saw him leave, and followed him to a pawn-broker's and there saw him offer the silver lancet-case to pledge, giving the name of "Phillips," which was engraved on the case. He told him he should take him into custody for stealing it, when he said it was his own property. Mr. Phillips said there was a gang of fellows going about victimising medical men.

FOREIGN BODY IN AIR TUBES. On November 3rd, a young man was admitted into the hospital at Wolverhampton, suffering from the effects of a threepenny piece, accidentally swallowed on the previous day. While walking along the street, he placed the coin in his mouth. He then commenced running, and suddenly felt the coin glide down his throat, or, as he termed it, "go down the wrong way." The next day he found great difficulty in speaking, owing, as he rightly considered, to the coin having effected a lodgment in his windpipe. It continued to give him great pain, causing him to cough very much, and almost entirely preventing inspiration. In this difficulty he made application at the hospital. An opening was made into the windpipe, and a tube inserted, as it was found that the threepenny piece had nearly stopped up the windpipe altogether. For nearly fifty hours, he breathed through the tube. At the expiration of that time he was then made to hold his head downwards, and, after a sharp shake, the threepenny piece loosened itself from its place of lodgment, and rolled out of his mouth on to the floor. (*Wolverhampton Chronicle*.)

THE MEDICAL ACT. A meeting of metropolitan druggists, was held on the 27th ult., to consider the alterations in the Medical Act as proposed by the General Council, and also to consider "the best means of preventing such unwarrantable interference." Mr. Linden moved, "That the chemists and druggists now present recognise the desirability of giving all possible encouragement to scientific and education qualifications for the trade of chemist and druggist, but they consider themselves, in common with their brethren, quite competent to accomplish all needful reform in their own body, and indignantly repudiate the 56th and 57th sections of the proposed Act of the Medical Council as being unjust in principle, and an unwarrantable attempt to interfere with their rights as independent citizens." Mr. Robertson next moved, "That an Act of incorporation, based upon existing rights, and subjecting every future candidate for the trade to an educational test, as suggested by the United Society of Chemists and Druggists, is most desirable, and they would urge upon the trade the necessity for a constant and determined effort for its attainment." Mr. Ablett moved, "That the proceedings of this meeting be made known to the Medical Council, with the intimation that the chemists and druggists of this country require to be consulted upon any measure affecting their own interests, and that they will accept of no proposal which does not

recognise the desirability of an incorporation of the entire trade, giving them the right of self-government." The above resolutions were unanimously carried.

**DONATION.** Mr. Thomas Kerr, of the Grange, Monifieth, has given a donation of £2000 to the Dundee Royal Infirmary. (*Scotsman.*)

**FEES FOR MEDICAL ATTENDANCE ON POLICE.** The fee allowed by the London Police to a medical practitioner called in by them is 3s. 6d. per day, and 7s. per night visit.

**MEDICAL STUDENTS: EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.** The number of medical students matriculated on the 23rd November was 446. Last year the number up to that date was 470. Hence, there is a falling of 24, exactly the number by which the medical students of 1862 fell short of those of 1861. The deficiency, however, is accounted for by the small number of third year's men. There was in 1861, an unusually small entry of first year's students; but during the last two years the number has increased. (*Edinburgh Journal.*)

**A FAMILY OF GIANTS.** Robert Hales, known as the Norfolk Giant, died of consumption on the 22nd November. Hales was 43 years of age. His father was 6 feet 6 inches in height, and his mother 6 feet. An ancestor of his mother's was said to have been that famous warden of bluff King Hal, who stood 8 feet 4 inches in height. Of such Patagonian parents the progeny were worthy; the boys averaged 6 feet 5 inches each, and the girls 6 feet 3½ inches. Robert was the flower of the flock, and stood 7 feet 6 inches, weighing 452 lbs. One of his sisters, with whom he exhibited some years ago, was 7 feet 2 inches, but she died in 1842, being then only 20 years of age. Hales was stout in proportion to his height, though somewhat clumsily put together. When in his prime he was 64 inches round the chest, 62 round the waist, 36 across the shoulders, and 21 round the calf of the leg.

**HEALTH OF SCOTLAND.** The Registrar-General's monthly report on the eight principal towns of Scotland shows that the deaths last month considerably exceeded the deaths in the October of any year since the commencement of registration, in 1855. The zymotic (epidemic and contagious) class of diseases proved fatal to 850 persons in the eight towns, constituting the very high proportion of 39 per cent. of the deaths. Typhus (including gastric) fever caused 129 deaths, but scarlatina was by far the most fatal epidemic. In Glasgow 22.8 per cent. of all the deaths were from scarlatina, and in Dundee 30.5 per cent. Of the 354 persons carried off by scarlatina only four were adults above twenty. The weather of the month was for the most part rude, boisterous, and inclement, the number of days with rain large beyond example, but the depth of rain fallen not quite equal to the average.

**CHEMICAL SOCIETY.** At this society, on the 19th, several interesting papers were read. Mr. Riley referred to the existence of the rare metal vanadium in English pig iron. Vanadium has been found hitherto in very few substances, chiefly in vanadate of lead; it has also been detected in a kind of iron ochre and in the French mineral bauxite, which is now so largely employed in the manufacture of aluminium. Vanadium has already received an important application in the manufacture of writing ink. The very finest black ink, perfectly indelible by chemical reagents, or by exposure to the combined influences of air and moisture, is made by adding a minute proportion of vanadic acid to water containing some tincture of nutgalls. The next paper read was by Dr. Frankland and Mr. Baldwin Duppia. It referred to a mode of uniting ethyl, methyl, and amyl with metallic mercury. The compounds produced are of high interest in a scientific point of view. One of them, although a liquid resembling water in appearance, possesses so high

a specific gravity that the heaviest lead-glass floats on its surface. A paper by Dr. Thomson was next read. It consisted in the first part of an extract from elementary works of the properties of sulphuretted hydrogen, and consequently provoked much merriment in an audience composed of the most illustrious chemical authorities of the age. The second part contained a description of an apparatus for producing this gas, devised by Dr. Pisani. A fourth paper was read, on the constitution of certain organic radicles by Mr. Schorlemmer.

**THE HUNTERIAN MUSEUM.** This collection has just had a very interesting addition made to it by Mr. Henry Christy, F.L.S., of Victoria Street, who has presented a skeleton of the Manatee (*Manatus Australis*), better known to our English sailors as the Sea-Cow and the Woman-Fish, and by the French as the *Bœuf Marin* and *Vache Marine*. There can be little doubt that not a few of the tales of mermaids and mermen have had their origin in the appearance presented by these animals, when seen at distance with the anterior part of their body out of the water, as the muzzle is thickly set with hairs, and the head is frequently covered with long seaweed, giving it somewhat the effect of human hair. Thus the Portuguese and Spaniards give the Manatee a denomination which signifies Woman-Fish; and the Dutch call it the Little Bearded Man. A very little imagination and a memory for only the marvellous portion of the appearance sufficed doubtless to complete the metamorphosis of this half-woman or man, half-fish, into a siren, a mermaid, or merman, and the wild recital of the voyager and treasured up by such writers as Maillet, Lachesnaye-des Bois, Sachs, Valentin, and others, who, as Cuvier well observed, have displayed more learning than judgment. The skeleton in question is nine feet in length.

**THE QUEEN AND THE WAKEFIELD CLAYTON HOSPITAL.** A report of the recent proceedings in connection with the opening of the Albert Ward at the Wakefield Clayton Hospital has been printed on white satin, and made up in the form of two bannerettes, finished with cords and tassels of royal purple, and, through Sir John Hay, M.P., presented to her Majesty. The following acknowledgment was sent to Sir John Hay: "Whitehall, Nov. 24, 1863.—Sir, I had the honour to lay before the Queen the report of the proceedings at the opening of the 'Prince Albert Ward,' in the Clayton Hospital, at Wakefield, which accompanied your letter to me of the 17th instant; and I have received her Majesty's commands to convey to you the assurance that her Majesty has been deeply touched by the marks of respect and admiration thus shown to the memory of her beloved husband, by the town of Wakefield. I am to add that her Majesty has directed that the reports of the opening of this ward shall be placed with the other documents relative to memorials to the Prince Consort, which are preserved in Windsor Castle.—I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) G. GREY."

#### POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—NOVEMBER 28, 1863.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.	Deaths.
During week.....	{ Boys.. 1011 } Girls.. 927	1933 1412
Average of corresponding weeks 1853-62 .....	1901	1550
<i>Barometer:</i>		
Highest (Th.) 30.212; lowest (Sun.) 29.661; mean, 29.943.		
<i>Thermometer:</i>		
Highest in sun—extremes (Sat.) 78.2 degs.; (Th.) 55.3 degs.		
In shade—highest (Wed.) 57.0 degs.; lowest (Sat.) 35.7 degs.		
Mean—47.9 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.+6.7 deg.		
Range—during week, 21.3 degrees; mean daily, 8.9 degrees.		
Mean humidity of air ( <i>saturation</i> =100), 89.		
Mean direction of wind, S.W. & S.E.—Rain in inches, 0.25.		