

Association Intelligence.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

A QUARTERLY meeting of this Branch will be held at Clarke's Castle Hotel, Taunton, on Wednesday, January 11th, 1865, at 7 P.M.

Notice of papers or cases to be communicated should be sent to the Honorary Secretary previous to the meeting.

W. M. KELLY, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary.

Taunton, December 10th, 1864.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: MONTHLY MEETING.

A MONTHLY meeting of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch was held at the Birmingham Library, on December 8th; JAMES RUSSELL, M.D., President-elect, in the Chair. Thirteen members were present.

Member of Council. Mr. Oliver Pemberton was elected member of Council, *vice* Dr. Wade elected Honorary Secretary.

New Member. Mr. Thomas Thompson, Queen's Hospital, was elected a member of the Branch, having been previously elected by the Council a member of the Association.

Dr. Russell having vacated the Chair, it was taken by Mr. T. Watkin Williams (Honorary Treasurer).

Paper. The following paper was then read.

Notes on Epilepsy. By J. Russell, M.D.

Reports of Societies.

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

NOVEMBER 17TH, 1864.

HENRY LOWNDES, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Cirrhosis of the Liver. Mr. RAWDON showed a specimen of cirrhosis of the liver weighing 2½ lbs., the spleen weighing 1½ lb.; and gave a brief outline of the case.

Mr. STEELE remarked, that this was an instance of the disease occurring in a person of temperate habits. He had met with several similar instances in his practice; and the conclusion which he drew was, that we must not regard alcohol as the only cause of the disease. He mentioned this in the belief that we are too apt to regard alcohol as the cause, and not a cause, of this altered condition.

Dr. SHEARER, Dr. GEE, and Dr. BURROWS took part in the discussion.

Intestinal Disease. Mr. RAWDON showed a specimen of perforation of the transverse colon, with malignant disease of the rectum.

Remarks on some Points in the Surgical Writings of Celsus. By H. LOWNDES, Esq. After some prefatory remarks on the period of time that had elapsed since the days of Celsus, Mr. Lowndes commenced with the subject of fractures. Celsus points out the necessity of early reduction by extension; but, if some time has elapsed, it must be postponed till the swelling has subsided. At the setting, the limb is to be wrapped in linen cloths soaked in wine and oil. On the seventh or ninth day, splints are to be applied; and the broadest splint should be placed on the side to which the fracture inclines. In compound fractures, the bones are not to be put in apposition till

the healing process has commenced. The limb is to be placed in the most comfortable position, and the wound dressed with oil and wine. Compound fractures of the thigh generally require amputating; those of the humerus less frequently. There is always shortening after fractures of the thigh. In cases of ununited fracture, the limb is to be extended to excite fresh injury. In the present day, we are not obliged to regard shortening as inevitable in cases of fractured thigh. With reference to the treatment of ununited fracture, we are indebted to a member of the Liverpool Medical Institution for a new method, which promises to be successful in the treatment of these cases. With regard to injuries of the head, Celsus describes an instrument very similar to the modern trephine; but he used it rather for disease of bones than for injury. Celsus insists on the careful probing of wounds of the head, to detect fracture and its direction. For these cases he recommends simple treatment, and, on the subsidence of febrile symptoms, healing ointments. But, if untoward symptoms supervene, he recommends excision of the fractured portion, in order to give vent to fluid beneath. Celsus recommends the use, during the operation for excision of bone, of a copper plate, to prevent injury to the membranes of the brain; but he does not describe anything like our modern elevator. Mr. Abernethy was one of the first English surgeons to point out the necessity of discrimination between those fractures requiring active treatment and those that did not; he says that the wound made by a trephine is far more serious than many fractures themselves. Sir Astley Cooper coincided in the view. For the treatment of varicose veins, Celsus recommends either cauterization or excision. The cauterization is applied by first exposing the vein with a knife. In excision, he appears to have removed portions of the vein, and then covered the wound with an agglutinating plaister. Till lately, palliative measures have generally been resorted to; but now several modes of radical cure are getting into common use. Mr. Lee recommends pressure, by pins introduced under the veins, combined with subcutaneous division of them. The simple subcutaneous division practised by Sir Benjamin Brodie was found dangerous; but Mr. Lee's plan of sealing the veins above and below the wound renders the operation safe and effectual. Celsus treats diseases of the anus in less than two pages, and yet leaves very little else to be said. Fissures and external piles are to be excised. Internal piles are to be ligatured; if they are very numerous, they are not all to be operated on at the same time. Regarding wounds of the intestines, Celsus considers those of the small intestine as incurable, while those of the large intestine are to be stitched up and returned in their proper order. Alluding to wounds of the abdominal parietes, Celsus says that they are to be sewn up, but that sutures of the skin or of the "interior membrane" alone are insufficient. We have here carefully described a mode of bringing together abdominal wounds that has been revived of late years by those who have brought the operation of ovariectomy to so great perfection. That surgeons in the time of Celsus were very successful in treating abdominal wounds, we may infer from the fact that they operated for ventral hernia by removing elliptical portions of integument and peritoneum, and uniting the wound by the method just described. Rhinoplastic operations do not appear to have been practised on a large scale in the time of Celsus; but he gives some directions for removing deformities about the nose, mouth, and ears, arising from ulceration. He gives directions for making a prepuce in cases where the glans penis has been left bare. Fistulæ that do not get

tents, are more or less in excess. How can the uterus and its appendages, the bladder, and rectum, be advantaged by their being forced down thereon? Is there not danger of procidentia uteri, to say nothing of undue pressure of the ovaries, etc.? My idea is, that the custom would be more honoured in the breach than the observance.

Hoping my professional brethren will give me credit for my sole motives in this controversy, the good of the better part of our nature, and the advancement of our noble profession,

I am, etc., THOMAS POPE.

Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, December 3rd, 1864.

MEDICAL EVIDENCE IN LAW COURTS.

LETTER FROM RICHARD THURSFIELD, ESQ.

SIR,—I have for many years been subjected to the attacks of Mr. Frederick Hezekiah Hartshorne of this town; but as they circulated only in the neighbourhood in which we were both well known (for I was in full practice here before he was born), I invariably treated them with silence. I should have treated his letter of the 1st instant with the same indifference, but for the remarks you have deemed it fit to make as editor.

I shall forbear detailing Mr. Hartshorne's exhibition in the Madeley County Court, against a poor man, his own tenant, and his next door neighbour; nor will I describe the state in which I found the little boy who had met with the accident. Mr. Hartshorne, in his letter, states that I attended the child immediately after he had withdrawn from the case. This is simply incorrect. My assistant, Mr. Onslow, was sent for about 11 A.M. on the day following the accident. He refused to go, in consequence of my express orders, long ago given, that he never interfered with Mr. Hartshorne or his patients in any way. They sent twice again; and he went on being told the last time that Mr. Hartshorne was no longer in attendance. On my return home, he told me the parents wished me to see the boy. I refused to go; but, when he returned, he said the wife told him Mr. Hartshorne should not attend the child again, and that it was very unkind of me to refuse to go, and, if I would not, she would send over Severn for another surgeon. I then went; and I may remark here that I had occasionally attended the family; and had for years attended the families of both her husband and herself. Do you still think I was in error? The tale of the lady, I know nothing about.

At the hearing of the case brought by Mr. Hartshorne against the father of the child, for the recovery of his bill, I was in the court in my official character as high bailiff; and being called upon to give evidence (of which I had had no previous notice, and which I was compelled to do under a fine of £10), I answered most of the questions put to me; but the evidence I gave was very different in effect to that quoted by Mr. Hartshorne. I gave no evidence whatever as to the treatment of the child by Mr. Hartshorne, or the fee he ought to charge for his services. I purposely abstained from stating any opinion on these points, for the reason stated in your remarks; and, before leaving the court, I was complimented, both by the judge who tried the case, and the registrar of the court, who was present, and who is Mr. Hartshorne's brother-in-law, upon the very fair and proper manner in which I had answered the questions put to me.

I trust to you to insert this in your earliest publication; and, as I have neither time nor inclination to enter into a paper war with any one, much less with Mr. Hartshorne, I shall treat any further com-

munications from him with the silence and contempt I have hitherto done, with this single exception.

I am, etc., RICHARD THURSFIELD.

Broseley, Shropshire, Dec. 13th, 1864.

[Our remarks last week were made on the statement of Mr. Hartshorne; viz., that Mr. Thursfield had said in the County Court, "that, under the circumstances, £3 was a sufficient payment." Mr. Thursfield denies that he gave any evidence whatever as regards the fee. Accepting his contradictions as true, we feel bound to answer his query by saying, that we do not consider him in error in the matter. EDITOR.]

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND. The following members of the College, having been elected Fellows at previous meetings of the Council, were admitted as such on December 8th.

Clerke, Jonathan, Dublin; diploma of membership dated April

18, 1828

Forbes, John, Royal Crescent, Notting Hill; April 10th, 1827

Garner, Robert, Stoke-upon-Trent; March 4, 1831

Tweed, John James, Upper Brook Street; July 23, 1842

Wallis, Frederic, Bexhill, Sussex; December 16, 1842

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. The degree of M.B. was conferred on the following gentlemen on Dec. 8.

Church, William Selby, Christ Church

Griffin, Frederick Charles Griffith, Lincoln College

Paxton, Francis Valentine, Christ Church

Williams, Charles Theodore, Pembroke College

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On December 8th, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Allen, Bryan Holme, University College Hospital

Bullmore, Charles Forrester, Falmouth

Carnley, Vaughan, Church Street, Barnsley

Collier, Thomas, Bridgend, Glamorganshire

Dove, John Reuben Bathurst, London Hospital

Manser, Frederick, Chatham

Peirson, George Brigg, Sherburn, Yorkshire

Spooner, Charles Henry, Newington, Surrey

Spyers, Thomas Charles, Faversham, Kent

Wiltshire, Thomas, Abingdon, Berks

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

Goodall, Joseph, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

Langdon, George Charles, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

Sarjant, James Forbes, St. Mary's Hospital

Wright, Edward Seymour, London Hospital

APPOINTMENTS.

ARMY.

ROBERTSON, Surgeon H. F., 40th Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon, vice J. E. Young, M.D.

YOUNG, Staff-Surgeon J. E., M.D., to be Surgeon 40th Foot, vice H. F. Robertson.

ROYAL NAVY.

BROWN, Allan, M.D., Surgeon, to the *Blenheim*.

MILITIA.

FRANCIS, A. O., Esq., to be Assistant-Surg. 1st Derbyshire Militia.

DEATHS.

BLYTHMAN. On October 20th, at Rio de Janeiro, on his passage from Monte Video, aged 25, Frederick David, third son of *Robert O. Blythman, Esq., Swinton, Rotherham.

*KIRKES, William S., M.D., at 2, Lower Seymour Street, aged 41, on December 8.

MANN, George Smyth, Esq., Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, Bengal Presidency, at Dacca, aged 47, on October 31.

SMITH. On December 5th, at Brompton, Lady Smith, wife of Sir Andrew Smith, K.C.B.

THOMPSON. On December 4th, at Jarrow-on-Tyne, Sarah Jane, wife of Robert F. Thompson, M.D.

TURTLE. On December 10th, at 3, Colet Place, Mary Gude, wife of Frederick Turtle, M.D.

MR. BRODHURST has been nominated a Foreign Member of the Academy of Sciences of Rome.

TESTIMONIAL. At the forty-second anniversary dinner of the Loyal Brunswick Lodge, Brighton, Mr. Richard Rugg was presented with a massive silver loving cup, on resigning the office of surgeon, an appointment which he had held for nearly thirty years.

SEWAGE OF TOWNS. A deputation, consisting of parliamentary and municipal representatives of Birmingham, Nottingham, Derby, Wolverhampton, Coventry, Preston, and Bath, had an interview with the Right Hon. Sir George Grey at the Home Office, on Saturday, on the subject of the utilisation of the sewage of towns, and preventing the pollution of rivers and streams.

A POLITICAL TAPEWORM. Somebody said that the Schleswig-Holstein question was the political tapeworm of Germany, interminable and always growing again. Felix mas (Prince Felix Schwarzenberg) and grenade bark had failed to remove it, but at last it had been effectually expelled by a dose of oleum Duppellii.

REQUESTS. By will Miss Harman, of Tunbridge Wells, leaves to her medical friend, Robert Duncan, M.D., £200; to the Tunbridge Wells Dispensary, £50; to the Maidstone Ophthalmic Hospital, Brompton Consumption Hospital, Eye Infirmary, and Blind Charity, 19 guineas each. The Rev. John Dight, of Folkestone, has bequeathed to the societies in London and Paris for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals £100 each, and a like legacy to the Devon and Exeter Hospital. Mr. Underwood of Norwich leaves to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and the Cumberland Infirmary, each £200.

ANTI-POISONING BOTTLES. Mr. Mumbray, of the Pharmaceutical Society, says: "Almost without exception, the whole tribe of inventors have been quietly shelved or altogether ignored. The only really practical 'poison-bottle' I have seen is that invented by Messrs. Gilbertson and Sons. Its form being a wedge, it cannot be stood upon a shelf in company with other bottles, consequently can never be mistaken for another. The shape, too, is very advantageous, as it does not allow the contents to run out, even when uncorked; this is no trifling advantage, obviating as it does the possibility of an upset and damage resulting from corrosive solutions, as iodine, etc.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH. At the annual election meeting, held on Thursday, December 1st, 1864, the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year. *President*, Dr. J. G. M. Burt; *Council*, Dr. D. Craigie, Dr. W. Seller, Dr. J. Moir, Dr. R. B. Malcolm, Dr. Alexander Wood, Dr. W. H. Lowe; *Vice-President*, Dr. D. Craigie; *Examiners*, the President, Drs. Craigie, Seller, Wood, Douglas, R. Paterson, Wright, Keiller, Pattison, Cumming, Duncan, J. W. Begbie, Haldane, and Sanders; *Treasurer*, Dr. S. Somerville; *Secretary*, Dr. D. R. Haldane; *Librarian*, Dr. J. M. Duncan; *Curator of Museum*, Dr. T. S. Wright; *Clerk*, Mr. C. Douglas, W.S.; *Auditor*, Mr. K. Mackenzie, C.A.; *Under-Librarian*, Mr. J. Small; *Officer*, T. Marshall. The election dinner took place in the evening, in the hall of the College, in Queen Street, when among the guests present were, the Right Hon. the Lord Provost, his Grace the Duke of Argyll, the Lord Advocate, Lord Neaves, Mr. Whyte Melville, Mr. Bell (President of the Royal College of Surgeons), Dr. Ritchie (President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow), Professors Moir and Spence, Dr. Currie, C.B., the medical officers of the garrison, etc.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's for Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.
TUESDAY.... Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.
WEDNESDAY...St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 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.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.
FRIDAY.....Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.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.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY. Medical Society of London, 8 P.M. Mr. Hunt, "On the Present State of Medical Logic."
TUESDAY. Pathological Society of London, 8 P.M.—Anthropological, 8 P.M.—Statistical.
WEDNESDAY. Geological.
THURSDAY. Royal.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS.—To prevent a not uncommon misconception, we beg to inform our correspondents that, as a rule, all communications which are not returned to their authors, are retained for publication.

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

T. F.—The very interesting account of the meeting of German Naturalists and Physicians, lately published in these pages, is from the pen of our talented associate, Dr. Thudichum.

O. T.—The French Medical Association has nothing in common with our own Association, except the name. It is simply a Provident Association, precisely of the same kind as our own Provident Fund. To compare the two Associations, and to draw from the comparison odious and unjust inferences, is necessarily the work either of malevolence or ignorance.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION AT NEWCASTLE will, we trust, be considered a satisfactory reply to those of our friends (!) who have lately exhibited so much anxiety concerning the state of health of our Association. We can assure them that, notwithstanding all their prescriptions and their much gratuitous advice, we are in excellent health, and never stronger or more vigorous in constitution. Their attentions, etc., sometimes remind us of the anxiety occasionally shown by expectant heirs.

AN ADVERTISEMENT.—Our attention has been called to the following advertisement in a Welsh paper:

"Wanted.—A plain, sober, industrious young man, as an assistant, to visit and dispense. No fop wearing rings will answer the purpose. Applications to be made, stating salary, to Mr. —, Surgeon, —."

BLEEDING IN OLD TIMES.—Guy-Patin was a ferocious bleeder. In one of his letters, he says that he bled one M. Mantel thirty-two times for continued fever. The brother of Bélin, who had the ague, was bled four times; and then, in a fresh attack, eight times, and purged violently at the same time. His own son, who had fever, Guy-Patin "recovered by the aid of twenty good bleedings from the arm and foot, together with a dozen strong doses of purgatives." This son, by the way, died at 41, of consumption.

TREATMENT OF CLEFT PALATE.—SIR: Will you allow me a few remarks suggested by your notice of the Odontological Society in your last number. I think there must have been a misapprehension on your part, which is shown in the closing sentence of that article. The statements made to me since the meeting by many of the most influential members present will certainly not bear out that inference. With all due modesty, I must claim for the apparatus which I have constructed, that it fulfils far greater perfection the requirements set forth by Mr. Sercombe. It possesses all the simplicity that even a child can need to keep it in order. It is formed and vulcanised in a metallic mould, which becomes the property of the patient, and duplicates can be multiplied indefinitely for a mere trifle at any rubber factory, without calling in the aid of the dentist. I think, therefore, the question of durability not worth the discussing. Mr. Sercombe's imputation, that but few dentists possessed the skill to construct my instrument, pays but a poor compliment to the profession in this country. I must, with all my pride for America, claim for my British friends that the majority of them possess all the ability necessary to that end; certainly, as many as would ever be interested enough in the matter to attempt to carry it out. By inserting the above in your JOURNAL, you will correct a wrong impression conveyed, I think, by the former article. I am, etc., NORMAN W. KINGSLEY.

25, Manchester Square, Dec. 12th, 1864.

SIR: The condensed report of my remarks at the recent meeting of the Odontological Society, which appears in your last number, contains two inaccuracies, which, with your permission, I will correct. I expressed my belief, as you state, in the hereditary nature of the deformity; but I did not state that in all instances I had been able to trace inheritance. I said that I had been able to do so in the majority. The second inaccuracy is, that I am reported to have said that Dr. Kingsley's apparatus was adapted for those rare cases in which the soft palate was so far destroyed that no moveable part remained. This is exactly the reverse of what I said. I said that Dr. Kingsley's appliance was limited in its application to congenital fissure of the velum; that it was of no use where all moveable parts had been destroyed by ulceration; whereas mine, which I was comparing with Dr. Kingsley's, was just as adaptable to these cases, which appear to me the most difficult of all to meet, as to congenital fissure.

I am, etc., EDWIN SERCOMBE.

49, Brook Street, W., December 13th, 1864.

THE SILENT FRIEND SYSTEM SUPPORTED BY DRUGGISTS.—SIR: I beg respectfully to call your attention to the enclosed advertisement, which is taken from the *Manchester Guardian* of December 2nd, 1864. If respectable druggists in the principal streets of large towns furnish such advertisements, and take such agencies, I think it behoves the profession to treat them accordingly. It would well become the Medico-Ethical Societies in various parts of the Kingdom to watch the proceedings of druggists who lend themselves to the diffusion of quack medicines at the same time that they seek to profit by the patronage of legitimate practitioners. I am, etc., AN OBSERVER.

Manchester, December 5th, 1864.

"THE vigour of youth restored in four weeks, by Dr. Ricord's Essence of Life. This wonderful agent will restore manhood to the most shattered constitution in four weeks. Success in every case is as certain as that water quenches thirst. Sole agents in Manchester: Richards (late Ingham), chemists, 46, Market Street."

QUACK ADVERTISEMENTS.—SIR: In an excellent article of the *Times*, these words occur:—"It is hard to believe that powers do not already exist to put down such exhibitions"; namely, quack bills and quack advertisements. Such powers do really exist, although they seem to be but little known. Act 18, George II, c. 15, by embodying the Charter of 5, Car. I, enacts "That whosoever any empiric hereafter, or any such person, whether being a native subject of the kingdom of England or an alien, and ignorant of the art and science of surgery, and not approved of or lawfully admitted to practise surgery, shall affix or put out any pictures, bills, writings, or signs, upon posts, outside, or walls, or other conspicuous place within our said cities of London or Westminster, or either of them, the suburbs and limits thereof, or within seven miles of the said city of London, to call in any persons passing by, travellers, or other persons whatsoever, to have anything done there which, according to our royal intention above declared, belongs to skilful, all-owed, and admitted surgeons; then it shall and may be lawful for the Masters or Governors of the mystery and commonality aforesaid for the time being, by themselves or any of their officers whatsoever, to take away, blot out, demolish, and totally cancel all such pictures, bills, writings, and signs, lest our people by any such impostor may be deceived or deluded."

Although it is not to be expected that the President or other officer of the College of Surgeons will blot out or cancel the bills of these empirics or impostors (at least, not in the present day), yet the fact remains, that such advertisements, whether upon walls, or circulated by means of public newspapers, are *illegal*, being a violation of the above Act, and as such, an indictable offence.

The fact of these advertisements being *illegal*, might possibly have more weight with such editors who admit them into their papers, than their outraging all decency, corrupting the morals of the young, and cheating the unwary. It is to be hoped that the recent exposures will cause all respectable papers to cease co-operating with a class of men pronounced as "impostors" by a public Act of Parliament. I am, etc.,

JAMES GAGE PARSONS, L.R.C.P.Ed.

Bristol, December 5th, 1864.

VACCINATION CERTIFICATES.—A correspondent writes:—"I have recently received from the relieving-officer of this parish three books containing certificate forms for vaccination. One or other of these, he informs me, I am to give to the parents of every child vaccinated by me, under penalty of certain fines in default of so doing; and, in order that there may be no mistake in my mind, he tells me of a case in which a medical practitioner was compelled by action of law to pay such a fine, with, I believe, costs. Can you, sir, inform me if such is really the state of the law on this point, so that medical men holding no parish appointment are compelled to furnish the parish authorities with gratis certificates of the result of the vaccination of their private patients?"

Another correspondent, not an union medical officer, has forwarded us the subjoined letter, which has been addressed to the medical men in his district.

Union, 25th November, 1864.

"SIR: I am directed by the Guardians of this Union to call the attention of all the medical practitioners within the Union to the requirements of Section 4 of the Act 16 and 17 Vic., c. 100.

"That section requires the medical practitioner, who shall have performed the operation of successful vaccination on any child, to give a certificate, in the form provided by the Act, that the said child has been successfully vaccinated; and also to transmit a duplicate of the said certificate to the Registrar of Births and Deaths of the subdistrict in which the operation was performed.

"It has come to the knowledge of the Guardians, that very few only of these certificates are transmitted to the Registrars, although it is considered essential to the well working of the Compulsory Vaccination Acts that the documents in question should be regularly furnished.

"Some time since, the Guardians of the Cambridge Union preferred an indictment against a medical practitioner who refused to furnish the certificate required; and the result was, that the defendant compromised the case, by furnishing the certificate, and paying five guineas towards the expenses.

"In consequence of the great importance of seeing that the Vaccination Acts are duly carried out, I am directed by the Guardians of this Union to inform you that they think it right thus to draw your attention to the matter; and further, should it become necessary to do so, they consider it will be their duty to take steps to enforce a compliance with the section referred to.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,

—, Clerk to the Guardians."

It would appear, therefore, that the certificate is required in England and Wales. The question to which our correspondents refer, has also been agitated in Scotland, which has a Vaccination Act of its own; and a writer in the last number of the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* gives the following questions and official answers thereto.

"*Query.* Am I required to keep books, enter cases of vaccination, and make returns to Board of Supervision, as per Sec. xxi, of such cases as I vaccinate as *medical practitioner*, as well as of such as I vaccinate as *vaccinator*?"

"*Answer.* I have to inform you, in reply, that the returns required by the Board of Supervision are intended to include only the cases of paupers and others, vaccinated by the vaccinator in his official capacity, by the instructions or orders of the Parochial Board.

"*Query.* Am I, in terms of the Vaccination Act, Sec. xxiii, bound to transmit, within forty-eight hours, to the Registrar the particulars of any vaccination certificate which I may grant in my capacity of private medical practitioner; or is this only requisite in those cases which I vaccinate as vaccinator?"

"*Answer.* I have to state in reply, that in my view of the interpretation of the statute, the provisions of the twenty-third section do not apply to your private practice. "I am, etc.,

"(Signed), "JOS. WALKER, Secy."

THE GRIFFIN TESTIMONIAL FUND.—SIR: The following subscriptions have been further received on behalf of the above Fund:—Dr. Mackinder (Gainsborough), 5s.; Dr. Bryan (Northampton), 5s.; G. John Hinnell, Esq. (Thingoe), 5s.

Amount previously announced, £108:4:6. Received at the *Lancet* office, £6:14.

I am, etc.,

ROBERT FOWLER, M.D.,

Treasurer and Hon. Sec.

145, Bishopsgate Street Without, December 14th, 1864.

A PROVINCIAL STUDENT.—The next primary or anatomical and pass or surgical examinations for the diploma of membership of the Royal College of Surgeons, will take place on the 14th and 21st of January respectively; and the preliminary on Tuesday next.

A DR. BENJAMIN JUNG has just published a pamphlet, entitled *Prohibition of Vaccination*. It is dedicated to Dr. Jenner, as follows:—"To the Man-destroyer, Dr. Jenner of England, Importer of Vaccination: Homo vanus et levis, cerebro vacuus et temerarius, mente et judicio carens.

Scientiam profanasti,
Terram perdidisti,
Populum occidisti!"

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 1st 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.

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, *General Secretary*.

Birmingham, December 1864.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. On Diphtheria and Diphtheritic Diseases. By J. W. Walker, M.B. London: 1864.
2. Sixth Report of the Herefordshire Medical Association. Hereford: 1864.
3. Handbook of Dental Anatomy and Surgery. By John Smith, M.D. London: 1864.
4. Manual of Materia Medica and Therapeutics. By J. F. Royle, M.D., F.R.S., and F. W. Headland, M.D., F.L.S. Fourth edition. London: 1864.

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