

the varied excellence of his own character. His loss will be felt widely beyond the circle of his own medical school, though most deeply there, for his finished work is but the earnest of what was with just confidence expected from him in the future; and though that work may be continued by others, his friends have sustained a loss which time can never perfectly repair.

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.

Reports of Societies.

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

DECEMBER 1ST, 1864.

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

Renal Calculi. Dr. GEE showed a specimen of a kidney containing two large renal calculi.

Mr. HIGGINSON and Dr. SHEARER offered some remarks on the case.

On Chorea, and on Nature and Art in the Treatment. By J. TURNBULL, M.D. Having pointed out the connection between chorea and rheumatism, and the relation in which it stands to epilepsy and hysteria and some other nervous affections, he stated that chorea might not only be a trifling disorder, but also a very severe, obstinate, and even fatal disease. It had been said that, because cases had been treated by diet and regimen only, and had recovered, the disease might very well be left to itself, and placed in the same category as many other disorders which tend to a spontaneous cure. He observed, however, that there is the same tendency to spontaneous cure in all curable diseases; and that this principle applies quite as much to serious acute diseases as to nervous disorders such as chorea and whooping-cough; and that it might be as well or better illustrated in regard to such acute diseases as pneumonia, the exanthematous fevers, and ague. He advocated therapeutic inquiry; but, in recommending sulphate of aniline as a remedy for chorea, he had done so with a full knowledge of the tendency to spontaneous cure, and had exhibited it as a gentle sedative in doses of two or three grains. It had been given in large increasing doses, as if intended to act as an antidote against the disease, as sulphate of zinc has been given; and a series of unsuccessful cases, in which it had been thus tried, had been published. He had, however, so often seen it prove useful, that he would still advise a trial of it in cases which resisted ordinary treatment, such as by the employment of the mineral tonics. He showed that the effects of aniline and of nitro-benzine had been confounded together, though in reality essentially different. He pointed out that nitro-benzine is one of the xyloids, a series of substitution compounds, all containing nitrogen,

and formed by the action of nitric acid on certain organic compounds, and all of them narcotic and more or less highly poisonous, as had been originally made known by Dr. Edwards. In the treatment of ordinary cases of chorea, he considered the metallic tonics the remedies most generally useful—the preparations of iron, arsenic, and zinc. Purgatives were required where there was any source of irritation in the bowels; and the shower-bath he had often found to be a remedial agent of great value and power. Cod-liver oil often assisted by its influence in improving the nutritive functions. On the other hand, there were some agents which appeared to have an injurious effect. Opium and morphia had appeared to be hurtful; and, though it had been said that the inhalation of chloroform proved useful, in his own experience it had rather seemed to have acted injuriously.

Mr. A. B. STEELE, Dr. SHEARER, Dr. VOSE, and Dr. FINIGAN, took part in the discussion.

Dr. TURNBULL, in replying to the remarks that had been made, said that he did not advocate specific treatment in these cases, but thought that each should be treated on general principles. In some obstinate cases, he had found the sulphate of aniline particularly useful as a remedial agent.

WESTERN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 1864.

GEORGE D. POLLOCK, Esq., President, in the Chair.

Bony Ankylosis. By B. E. BRODHURST, Esq., F.R.C.S. The author said these cases were rare. When of the hip-joint, the patient is very helpless, and can only move by the aid of crutches. He is less helpless when the disease affects any other than the hip-joint. The propriety of interfering with bony ankylosis of the knee or ankle joint may be questioned; but, in the case of the hip and elbow joint, it must be of great importance to give the patient a chance of renewal of motion even where it would seem to have been hopelessly lost. In operating, it is important to divide the bone as near as possible to the articulation. In the elbow, a wedge-shaped piece may be taken from the centre of the articulation; and in the hip, the neck of the femur may be divided just below the head of the bone. The divided ends may then be scooped out, so that both surfaces shall be concave and facing each other; for the difficulty is to retain a false joint. So strong is the tendency for bony union to occur, a swinging limb need not be feared. If the action of the muscles cannot be gained, union by bone is certain to take place. It is important, therefore, to divide the bone in the most favourable position for the action of the muscles; and that point must be the nearest possible point to the articulation itself. In these cases, we have to deal with tolerably healthy structures; and hence it is that the tendency to repair is so strong. The muscles, too, which formerly moved the limb, are somewhat altered in structure; and, through disease, they will have lost power. It will require, therefore, for a lengthened period, both patience and fortitude to gain fair muscular power, after bony ankylosis has once become fully established.

CASE. A. M., aged 23 years, suffered from bony ankylosis of the left hip. When she was ten years old, she met with an accident, through which inflammation was excited. She continued to walk, however; no attention being paid to the limb for many months. She limped; the limb swelled; an abscess formed, and continued more or less to discharge pus and necrosed bone for ten years. Pain and abscess

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On December 15th, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Daniel, William Clement, Heath House, Commercial Road
Dawson, Charles William, York
Edger, Warren, Kirkby-Stephen, Westmoreland
Ha'len, Edward Cresswell, Dudley, Worcestershire
Jackson, George, Plymouth

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

Gowing, Benjamin Chaston, Guy's Hospital
Mackinnon, Henry William Alexander, King's College Hospital
Raby, John, St. Thomas's Hospital
Roper, Robert Gear, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Smith, Joseph William, King's College Hospital
Ward, Frederic Henry, St. Thomas's Hospital

APPOINTMENTS.

FENWICK, George E., M.D., appointed Physician to the Montreal General Hospital.
STONE, Robert Sidney, L.R.C.P., appointed Resident Surgeon to the Civil Hospital at the Mauritius.
TRAPANI, Giovanni Battista, M.D., to be Collector of Customs in Malta.

ARMY.

BURTON, Staff-Surgeon-Major E. J., M.D., retiring on half-pay, to have the honorary rank of Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals.
MASSY, Staff-Surgeon H. H., M.D., to be Staff-Surgeon-Major, having completed twenty years' full-pay service.
THOMPSON, Surgeon J. A. W., M.D., 80th Foot, to be Surgeon-Major, having completed twenty years' full-pay service.

ROYAL NAVY.

BAXTER, W. H., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Cadmus*.
CAMERON, W. H., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Cadmus*.
COLLINS, Alexander, M.B., Assistant-Surgeon, to be Surgeon.
COWEN, Philip, Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Highflyer*.
M'KENNA, Arthur, M.D., Assistant-Surgeon, to be Surgeon.
ROBERTSON, Archibald G., Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Highflyer*.
WALLACE, Peter W., M.D., Assistant-Surgeon, to be Surgeon.

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

DANE, T., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon West Middlesex R.V.
FINNIGAN, J., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon Liverpool Irish R.V.
SAMUELS, A., M.D., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon Liverpool Irish R.V.
TAYLOR, J. S., Esq., to be Surgeon 5th Lancashire R.V.
WILSON, R., M.D., to be Surgeon 2nd Northumberland A.V.

DEATHS.

BROWN. On December 19th, at Rochester, aged 2½ years, Frederick Kilmore, son of *Frederick James Brown, M.D.
BULL, Charles, Esq., Surgeon, formerly of Diss, at Norwich, on December 5.
FAIRBAIRN, William G., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, R.N., on board H.M.S. *Steady*, aged 32, on November 13.
*GODFREY, Joseph J., Esq., at Liverpool, aged 76, on December 14.
HARRIES, On December 5, at Bath, Augustus Edwin, youngest child of *Charles A. Harries, Esq.
HAWKINS. On November 30, at Exeter, Penelope E., wife of Thomas Hawkins, Esq., Surgeon.
JORDEN, William P., Esq., Surgeon, at 12, Lower Belgrave Street, aged 55, on December 11.
SELBY, James, Esq., Surgeon, at Hepburne, Victoria, aged 46, on September 24.
SIMPSON, George, jun., Esq., Surgeon, at Gower Street, aged 33, on December 19.
TIPPLETS, Edward, Esq., Surgeon, at Elm Grove, Brompton, on December 19.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL. The sum of £150 has been bestowed on this charity by Mrs. Penn.

STATUE OF LAENNEC. A subscription has been opened in France by decree Imperial for the purpose of erecting a statue to Laennec.

POLISH MEDICAL STUDENTS IN PARIS. The Emperor of the French has through his Minister of Instruction expressed his wish that all Polish students be admitted to lectures in the different universities of France without payment of fees.

BEQUEST. By will Colonel Onslow Baker, of the Indian army, leaves to the Consumption Hospital, Fulham, £100.

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION has accepted the very warm invitation given them by the Mayor and Corporation and Chamber of Commerce of Sheffield to hold their next annual meeting in that town.

M. TARDIEU. It was lately bruited about in Paris, and for a time believed by all the medical world in France, that M. Tardieu had been elected Minister of Public Instruction.

DONATIONS. The Royal Orthopædic Hospital has received from the Marquis of Westminster a donation of £200; and the Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, £500.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF HOSPITALS. Dr. Dane has been authorised to proceed to Norwich, Ipswich, Langard Fort, and Harwich, for the purpose of making his half-yearly sanitary inspection of the barracks and hospitals at those stations.

MEDICAL CANDIDATE FOR A CORONERSHIP. Dr. Kemp has addressed a circular to the members of the Herefordshire Medical Association announcing his probable intention to offer himself as candidate for the office of coroner for the Leominster division of the county.

SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN. This Society has just received from Mrs. Penn, at the hands of W. Owen Lucas, Esq., a benefaction of £150. We are happy to add that this half-year the allowance made by the Society to 52 widows and 21 children of its former members amounts to £1,160—a noble amount to be spent twice a year in relief.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. During the present week, upwards of eighty gentlemen have undergone the preliminary literary examination by the College of Preceptors for the diploma of membership of the College. The result will not be known until the next meeting of the Court of Examiners, about the 16th proximo, when the report from the College of Preceptors will be received, and the result communicated to the candidates.

THE HOSPITAL AT VIENNA. On the 12th inst., the stone to the newly-built Rudolph's Hospital at Vienna was laid by his Majesty in person. A document laid in the stone was signed by the Emperor, the Empress, the little Crown Prince, nine Archdukes, and Archduchesses, Francis d'Este Duke of Modena, and by all the Ministers and high dignitaries of State. The hospital, which has room for one thousand patients, is the first edifice built by the State for pacific purposes during the reign of the Emperor Joseph.

VEXATIOUS PROSECUTIONS. At a meeting of the Reading Pathological Society, held on December 13th, 1864, it was proposed by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Vines, and carried unanimously: "That the members of this Society desire to express their sympathy with Mr. Davies in the late trial of Wright v. Davies, and their satisfaction with the verdict; and they regret that members of the medical profession should be exposed to harassing and vexatious prosecutions." It was also resolved that the preceding resolution be sent for insertion in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, *Lancet*, and *Medical Times and Gazette*. [Might not the sympathy of the profession be more substantially expressed? Mr. Davies has, no doubt, been put to considerable expenses at the trial. We would suggest to the Reading Pathological Society, that it might open a subscription for the purpose of paying these expenses. EDITOR.]

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE. Natural Sciences Tripos, December 15th. *First Class*: Danby (Downing); Bradbury (Downing); Rankin (Trinity); Cooper (Caius); Hon. A. Strutt (Trinity). *Second Class*: Layton (Queen's); Hodgson (Trinity); Darroch (Trinity); Callis (Catherine); Barclay (Trinity). *Third Class*: Chambers (Trinity); Wilson (Caius); Jones (Queen's); Berners (Trinity Hall). The Examiners were: P. W. Latham, M.D.; C. Babington, B.D.; S. G. Phear, B.D.; and W. H. Brown, M.A.

ACTONIAN PRIZE ESSAY. The Actonian Prize or Prizes of the Royal Institution will be awarded in the year 1865 to an Essay or Essays illustrative of the Wisdom and Beneficence of the Almighty as manifested in any of the Phenomena of Radiation. The prize fund will be 200 guineas, and may be awarded as a single prize, or in sums not less than 100 guineas each, or withheld altogether, as the managers in their judgment should think proper. Competitors are requested to send in their Essays on or before December 31st. The adjudication will be made in April 1865.

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY. Of suicides during the past five years in Hyde Park there were 86 attempts, of which 32 were fatal, the majority of deaths being caused by persons hiding themselves in the park of an evening, and when the gates were closed going deliberately and silently into the water without the chance of being seen. Fifty-four persons were rescued and recovered by the society's officers. It is gratifying to find that very rarely, if ever, is a second attempt made to destroy themselves by the rescued people, only one case of a renewed attempt having come under the notice of the society.

HONOURS TO SCIENTIFIC MEN. In the *Moniteur* has appeared a report of M. Duruy, giving the names of those who, besides M. Ruhmkorff (who gained the 50,000 francs prize), have done the state some service in the application of voltaic electricity to useful purposes, and who are adjudged honourable mention. They are M. Lenoir, for his gas-engine; M. Caselli, for his telegraphic apparatus; M. Gaiiffe, for his method of engraving by electricity; M. Bonelli, for his electric loom; Mr. Hughes, for his electro-printer; M. Froment, for his electro-motion engines; MM. Foucault and Serin, for their electric lamp; and one or two more of less note. M. Froment is recommended for the officers' cross of the Legion of Honour. The same prize will be adjudged for the same purpose in 1868.

THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE. It is with the most sincere pleasure that we find ourselves for once able to praise heartily an act of the Indian Secretary of State. In a despatch, dated November 7th, he reconstitutes the separate medical service for India, throws over all the recent ideas, and offers terms splendidly liberal—terms which will most assuredly fulfil his expressed hope of securing “gentlemen of good social position, liberal education, and professional ability.” Under the new regulations surgeons appointed to the Indian service will not be required to serve out of India except with their own consent, but will retain their full rank in any part of the world. Formerly every assistant-surgeon had to wait for a death vacancy to become a full surgeon—often a period of 17 years. His salary during that time might remain almost unaltered. The new despatch orders that every assistant shall, after 12 years' service, become a surgeon, whether there is a vacancy or no; that the grade of surgeon-major shall be introduced, that separate inspectors and deputy-inspectors general shall be appointed to the local service, and that they shall hold office only for tours of five years

each, thus greatly accelerating promotion. Moreover, the pay is fixed on an entirely novel scale. The assistant-surgeon begins his career on a minimum pay of £350 a year, as he did before, but it is to rise steadily with length of service till he receives as unemployed or *minimum* pay *per annum*:—After five years, £365 *per annum*; after six years, £472; after 10 years, £492; after 12 years (surgeon), £770; after 15 years, £812; after 20 years (surgeon-major), £1,022; after 25 years, £1,065. This, be it remembered, is when unemployed—i.e., the absolute *minimum* wage, the allowances for employ being, according to the rules laid down in the despatch, at least £250 more. As an Indian officer is never, except for a few months in a lifetime, left out of employ, the true *minimum* rates may be roughly stated at £350 to begin with, £560 after five years, £700 after ten, £1,000 after 15, and £1,200 after 20 years' service—really good pay. These rates, moreover, are independent of prizes, of an inspectorship on £3,000 a year, and at least three sub-inspectorships on £2,200 each, of a monopoly of stations with practice, of irregular cavalry regiments, and of various other exceedingly pleasant and profitable incidents of the career. This, however, is not all. The rates of pension have also been revised, and amount for the future to—After 17 years' service, say 41 years of age, £220; after 21 years' service, say 45 years of age, £292; after 24 years' service, say 48 years of age, £365; after 27 years' service, say 51 years of age, £465; after 30 years' service, say 54 years of age, £550; independently of the £300 a year granted by the Medical Retiring Fund, which fund, with all its liabilities, now very great, is henceforward to be managed and guaranteed by the State. The pensions, are, in other words, brought up within a third of those granted to the civil service, the best paid body of men who ever existed under a civilised government. And, in addition to all this, a deputy or full inspector will, after his five years' tour, be entitled to £250 a year in excess of the pension of his grade. To put the matter in ordinary English, out of official formulas, a young surgeon who enters this service at twenty-four will receive £350 a year; rise £50 year as a *minimum* for 20 years, and return home at fifty with a pension of £650 a year for ever, enjoying meanwhile all manner of extra chances, depending on special ability, special services, or special interest made by himself in India. If those terms do not bring good men into the service then competition must be abandoned for direct nomination, for no government in its senses would or could offer higher; but we have no fear of the result. Sir Charles Wood has broken through many rules and more precedents to settle the matter once for all, to give the view of the House of Commons a fair and honest trial, to grant the profession terms heavy enough to make good men willing to compete, and to “diffuse through them, when appointed, a spirit of satisfaction and contentment.” If this despatch should fail there will be no remedy except to propose once more to the House to abolish competition, and, if it will not consent, to refuse all responsibility for the health of Her Majesty's subjects eastward of Alexandria. (*Spectator*.)

THE BELFAST RIOTS CASUALTIES. Dr. Murney has published a pamphlet, giving an account of the casualties during the Belfast riots. The statistics have been compiled from returns made by seventy-three out of seventy-four medical men in town, and do not include trivial injuries. It appears that 316 persons were sufferers at the hands of the rioters—293 males and 18 females; 299 recovered; 11 died; and 6 were still under treatment. Nine of the 11 deaths were due to gunshot injuries, and two to contusions and

lacerations. There were 98 cases of gunshot wounds, of which 64 were slight and 34 severe; nine of the latter terminating, as before mentioned, in death. Under the head of "slight" are reckoned injuries from shot and superficial wounds from bullets and slugs. There were 5 cases of stabbing. The number of contusions and lacerations was 212; of these 149 were slight, and 63 severe. Many of the sufferers sustained serious and permanent injury, the marks of which they will retain through life. Throughout the town, to an extent which can hardly be realised, persons have had their health seriously impaired, and their nervous system shattered by fright. One case, at least, of mania is clearly traceable to the riots. (*Dublin Medical Press.*)

Varieties.

PROFESSOR ROSE was a most amiable and liberal man. His students and assistants were his friends, and were constantly invited to his house. He never made use of his students to perform the drudgery and routine of his private researches. He seems even to have disliked receiving fees for his instruction. His lectures were illustrated in the simplest manner, and for most of his experiments he required only an ordinary test-tube. His dislike to display gave rise to the story that, after his assistant had caused the tarnished spirit-lamps to be brightened, the professor was found busily employed in restoring them to their former dingy hue. "He could not talk," he said, "amid so much glitter."

PREGNANCY OR OVARIAN DISEASE. A circumstance has lately occurred in Ireland which has caused a good deal of "talk." A married female, mother of three children, presented herself to an hospital surgeon, and stated that for a year and a half she had observed a gradually increasing abdominal tumour, which gave her annoyance and interfered with her health. She was received into hospital, and after some weeks' residence the tumour was pronounced ovarian. She was considered a favourable case for operation; but previous to such a remedy a consultation was called. There were a goodly number of *medicos* present, and among them "professors" and "clinical teachers." After due examination of the patient, some thought immediate operation and some deferred interference advisable. The latter view was adopted, and in a few nights after the consultation the intended operator was suddenly summoned to the woman's bedside, when lo! nature had operated in relieving her of a *five months' fetus*! It would seem that her husband had been absent some two years, and the tumour annoying her, she laid her plan for being *legitimately*, and, on sound principles, free from her burden, and she succeeded!—a caution as to a correct diagnosis being formed in abdominal tumours. It is stated that particulars will appear in the transactions of a medical society. (*Dublin Medical Press.*)

SCIENCE AND THE BULLY. A writer in *Blackwood's Magazine* makes the following remarks on the examination of medical witnesses in courts of law:—"The grandest achievement of all is a poisoning case—something that is to be two-thirds emotional and one-third scientific—where the interest vacillates between the most powerful passions and the pangs of arsenic; and the listener is alternately carried from the domestic hearth to the laboratory and back again. Now, when one is aware that the 'learned Serjeant' knows as much about chemistry as a washerwoman does of the 'wave theory', the display of impromptu

learning he makes is positively astounding. Armed with an hour's reading of Beck and Orfila, the great man comes down to court to puzzle, bewilder, and very often to confute men of real ability and acquirement; to hold them up to the world as hopelessly ignorant of all that they had devoted their lives to master; and in some cases to exhibit the very science they profess as a mass of crude disjointed facts, from which no inference could be drawn, or a safe conclusion derived. . . . A pitiable spectacle is that poor man of science, pilloried up in the witness-box, and pelted by the flippant ignorance of his examiner! What a contrast between the diffident caution of true knowledge, and the bold assurance, the chuckling confidence, the vainglorious self-satisfaction, and mock triumphant delight of his questioner! Mark the practised leer, the Old Bailey grin with which he comments on something that science still regards as uncertain or obscure, and hear him declare to the jury that, in the present state of medical knowledge, there is not a man in court might not be indicted for having handed the salt or the mustard to his neighbour!"

SUICIDE IN THE VIENNA GARRISON. Professor Engel has collated the statistics of suicide effected in the Vienna garrison during the four years 1859-62, both included. In the short period named no less than seventy-five persons destroyed themselves in this one garrison, averaging from 20,000 to 25,000 men. Of the seventy-five suicides, thirty-four were Austrian Germans—viz., eleven Viennese, ten from other parts of Lower Austria, two Tyrolese, two Styrians, one German Hungarian, and eight German Hanoverians. There were also twelve Bohemians, ten Gallicians, three Servians, one Slavonian, six Hungarian Magyars, one Transylvanian Magyar, four Italians, and one Wallachian, one Bavarian, one Hessian, and one Rhenish Prussian. Thus twenty-seven belonged to the German race, twenty-six to the Slavonian, seven to the Magyar, and five to the Italian. Dr. Engel observes, it is remarkable to learn that, in a body almost equally divided in race, the excitable Italian and the dull Magyar should be the two classes that yielded the fewest suicides. Among the suicides there were forty-two common soldiers, seven officers' servants, nine commissioned officers, three cadets, eleven officers of higher rank, and three medical officers. Hence the number of persons entrusted with charges was the half of the number of common soldiers, and of these eleven were Germans. Besides the officers' servants and the three medical officers, there were two belonging to the military police, two to the transport corps, thirty-two to the infantry, two to the Guards, nine to the Jagers, ten to the cavalry, two to the "Genie" corps, four to the artillery, and two to the sanitary corps and Quartermaster-General's staff. In regard to the modes of death, shooting was most usual; hanging was performed in sixteen cases; cut-throat in six; stabbing in two; opening an artery in one; fall from a window in one, and into a well in one; drowning in one, and poisoning in three. Of the Viennese, all chose every kind of death except shooting; two hanged themselves, four cut their throats, one stabbed himself, one opened an artery, one poisoned himself by sulphuric acid, and one by cyanide of potassium. Of the other Germans, six hanged themselves, and one cut his throat. Of the Bohemians, two hanged themselves, and one cut his throat. Of the Gallicians, four hanged themselves, one drowned himself, one stabbed himself, and three shot themselves. One Italian cut his throat, one threw himself from a window, and one into a well. One Magyar drowned himself. Most of the officers' servants shot themselves with their master's pistols, and two hanged themselves; one policeman and two

of the transport train hanged themselves; two Jagers and two artillerymen hanged themselves and one artilleryman cut his throat. Of the cavalry, two hanged themselves, two cut their throats, and one opened an artery. The Jagers and the infantry soldiers committed suicide by other modes of death than hanging—a fact naturally explained in the latter case by the difficulty experienced of obtaining firearms. Of the superior officers two hanged themselves, one drowned himself, and the remainder shot themselves. Of the three medical officers, one poisoned himself with cyanide of potassium, one cut his throat, and one shot himself with a pistol. In only two cases was there marked disease of the body. (*Spitals Zeitung, and Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Review.*)

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.

TUESDAY. Zoological.—Ethnological.
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.

WE REGRET to have to defer letters of several correspondents.

A. B.—A medical man having only an Apothecary's License cannot legally put on his door-plate the word Surgeon.

MR. HARTSHORNE.—We cannot admit further correspondence on the subject; and for very obvious reasons. Two gentlemen differ diametrically as to matters of fact. A. says that B. deposed in a Court of Justice "that £3 was sufficient payment" for a certain surgical attendance, etc., done by A. B., on the other hand, declares that "he gave no evidence whatever as to the fee he (A.) ought to charge for his services." In face of such discrepancies, an editor must needs be dumb.

E. C.—We have no doubt that our "disgusted" contemporary knows perfectly well who his homœopathic correspondent is. There can be no great difficulty in eliminating out of four or five medical correspondents who have been allowed to say their say freely against the Association, the one who practises in the globulistic line. At all events, it is no business of ours to enlighten the editor's ignorance, whether real or mock. We will repeat only, that he is not, and as far as we know never has been, a member of the Association.

CHRISTMAS.—It will perhaps save some of our readers a little inconvenience by informing them that the Hunterian Museum and the Library of the College of Surgeons will be closed to visitors on Monday, the 26th instant.

UNFRATERNAL CONDUCT.—The remarks lately made in this JOURNAL under the head of "Our own Brethren", have, we regret to say, brought us several letters containing details of non-neighbourly and unfraternal behaviour between medical men. One gentleman complains that a brother practitioner, X., who attended a case of midwifery for him, during his unavoidable absence, and attended it under the distinct understanding, both from the woman and himself, that it was not X.'s case, nevertheless sends in a charge to the woman for attendance. Our correspondent says that he himself paid the fee to X., who took it without compunction. He then states how differently he himself had shortly before acted towards X.

"Some time ago, I reduced a dislocation of the humerus in a patient of X.'s during his absence, and, upon his return, gave up the case to him. X. thereupon sent me half-a-guinea, as half the fee, with a note, thanking me for my attendance. I returned him the money, stating in my note I could not allow any unfriendly feeling that existed between us to prevent my acting as I considered one medical man ought to towards another, however placed they might be with each other."

Local jealousies must, we suppose, exist amongst mortal professional men; but we would just remark, that such feelings should not, and need never, interfere with a due and the very strictest attention to all the well-known and ordinarily accepted rules of professional etiquette and ethics.

A PLEA FOR NITROGEN.—SIR: The "respirational absorption of nitrogen" was discussed at the late British Association after a paper was read thereon by Mr. Barham, who gave the short historical account, as well as the circumstantial evidences of its being the chief elementary gas, as food for animals and vegetables.

The recent proceedings induce me to lay before your readers reflections on the progress of introducing nitrogen, as the chief element in Nature, since 1832, when cholera first made its appearance in England and Europe. The fatality of this disease then called forth research and thought, how far medicine was founded on the truthful views of the elements of our globe. A natural idea of the origin of the uses of materials (as food and medicine are composed of), first proposed by myself: such fundamental principles were never offered by authors before 1832. Consequently, an entire new field was opened for practice. It may now be said, Woe to that person who dares such inroad with marks of neglect by the savans!

If mincing the matter, or flinching from open discussion, had been my plan, epithets of cowardice or inability might have been applied; but such cannot be said. On the contrary, every public and private means have been proposed by me to elucidate utility since 1849; yet silence or indifference has been the result towards a professional man.

As a warm discussion took place, and most severe remarks were afterwards publicly made on Mr. Barham, I desire to know if any one knows the action of assimilation of the gases in the formation of food, etc.

I am, etc.,

WILLIAM PARKER, M.R.C.S., L.A.C.

Bath, November 28th, 1864.

VACCINATION CERTIFICATE.—SIR: I fancy the above question has been discussed more than once in the JOURNAL, although your correspondent of last week appears not to be aware of this.

There seems to be no doubt that it is an indictable offence to refuse signing the necessary certificates; but your correspondent seems to think it a peculiar hardship in his case, "not holding a parish appointment". I cannot see the force of his objection. He probably charges his patients five shillings or half-a-guinea for the operation, while I am paid eightpence or half-a-crown by the Guardians, and have frequently many miles to travel. The "three books containing certificates from the Vaccinator", were probably sent to your correspondent by the Registrar of Births, who might also be Relieving Officer; but I think it is self-evident that the "parish authorities" do not require these certificates, and therefore do not pay for them. They are, in fact, sent to the Registrar General. I contend further, that if these certificates are withheld by medical practitioners, the Vaccination Act must be an entire failure; and while I willingly admit its various imperfections, I cannot see the justice of constituting all medical men public vaccinators (as has been sometimes suggested); neither have I at present seen any satisfactory or practical improvement of it suggested. There are many other points that may be noticed; but I believe I have noticed the chief ones of your correspondent's letter.

I am, etc.,

A PUBLIC VACCINATOR.

December 1864.

[If it be for the public good that every man who vaccinates a child should register the vaccination, why should not the public pay him for registering the act? His patient pays him for vaccinating, not for registering the vaccination. The case of a public vaccinator is different. He undertakes to vaccinate, and also to register the vaccination. EDITOR.]

QUACK ADVERTISEMENTS.—SIR: The enclosed quack advertisements will show you how this system is carried on in the country papers. They were cut out of the *Norfolk and Norwich Mercury*. All the others are nearly as bad. Hitherto, I have taken this paper; but shall now decline it, unless the objectionable advertisements are suppressed. One of these persons was proceeded against at Norwich, but the conviction failed, on account of Clause xl being so badly worded. I now beg to propose, whilst the so-called "Dr." Henry or Wray's case is fresh before the public, that a little pressure be put on the Medical Council, in order to make them bring the subject forward the next session of Parliament, in order to amend Clause xl, and make it effectual. I therefore propose that the different Branches of our Association should petition the Medical Council to that effect; and that the clause instead of the present one should be—"Any person who shall take or make use of the name or title of Physician, M.D., L.M. & S., B.M., or Surgeon, General Practitioner or Apothecary, unless he be registered as such under this Act, shall, upon a summary conviction for any such offence, pay a sum not exceeding twenty pounds." I merely give this as a proposition, which can be altered or amended by others more competent; but shall be glad if it should meet your approval. I am, etc., AN ASSOCIATE.

December 6th, 1864.

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.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. The Diagnosis and Treatment of Cancer and the Tumours Analogous to it. By M. H. Colles, M.B. London: 1864.
2. Curvatures of the Spine: their Causes, Symptoms, Pathology, and Treatment. By Bernard E. Brodhurst. Second Edition. London: 1864.
3. The Treatment of Rheumatic Fever in its Acute Stage, exclusively by Free Blistering. By Herbert Davies, M.D. London: 1864.
4. Acupuncture: a New Method of Arresting Surgical Hemorrhage and of Accelerating the Healing of Wounds. By J. Y. Simpson, M.D., F.R.S.E. Edinburgh: 1864.
5. A Treatise on Smoky Chimneys. By Frederick Edwards, jun. London: 1864.
6. On the Early Symptoms of Phthisis: a Graduation Essay. By P. W. Latham, M.D. Cambridge and London: 1864.
7. The Successful Treatment of Internal Aneurism. By Jolliffe Tufnell. London and Dublin: 1864.
8. Medicines, their Uses and Mode of Administration. By J. M. Nellan, M.D. Sixth Edition. Edited by R. Macnamara, M.R.I.A. Dublin: 1864.
9. On Long, Short, and Weak Sight, and their Treatment. By J. S. Wells. London: 1864.
10. An Effectual and Simple Remedy for Scarlet Fever and Measles; with an Appendix of Cases. By Charles Witt. Fourth Edition. London: 1865.
11. Medical Errors. By A. W. Barclay, M.D. Cantab. and Edin. London: 1864.
12. Practical Dietary for Families, Schools, and the Labouring Classes. By E. Smith, M.D., LL.B., F.R.S. London: 1864.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. WALTER CARSTANG; Dr. TURNBULL; Mr. FRY; Mr. A. RANSOME; Mr. A. J. GODFREY; Dr. J. B. PITT; Dr. P. W. LATHAM; Mr. REGINALD HARRISON; Mr. CRICHTON; Mr. T. M. EVANS; Dr. S. W. J. MERRIMAN; Mr. R. N. STONE; Dr. G. M. HUMPHRY; Dr. FREDERICK J. BROWN; Mr. HIGGINBOTTOM; Dr. BOLTON; Mr. T. M. STONE; Mr. JOSHUA JAMES; Mr. R. THURSFIELD; Dr. KIDD; Mr. HAYNES WALTON; Mr. H. TERRY; Dr. H. P. LEECH; THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY; Mr. HARTSHORNE; THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE WESTERN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY; Mr. A. PRICHARD; Mr. J. VOSE SOLOMON; and Dr. DURRANT.

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In the Suburbs of London.—For Transfer, a General Visiting and Dispensing PRACTICE. Public appointments, £400 a-year; gross income, £1200. No private Midwifery under a guinea. £400 a year ready money. No retail or open Surgery; no horse or carriage required. One Assistant kept. The Practice has been established 20 years, and the house is well situate and replete with every convenience, vinery, pinery, etc., etc. A Partnership with a suitable gentleman would be entertained. Address, "S., 1051," Mr. Langley, as above.

Partnership.—On the borders of Wales. Income, £400 a-year. Appointments, £190. A knowledge of the Welsh language necessary. Incoming Partner must be doubly qualified. Address, "1057," Mr. Langley, as above.

In the Midland Counties.—FAMILY PRACTICE for Transfer. Income £1800 a-year. Eighteen months' introduction. Population 80,000. One year's purchase required. Address, "S., 1056," Mr. Langley, as above.

An old-established Practice in Derbyshire for Transfer. Receipts, £600; good appointments. Excellent house; rent, £42. Premium, £400. Address, "S., 1055," Mr. Langley, as above.