

Association Intelligence.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: GENERAL MEETING.

THE third general meeting of the present session was held at the Birmingham Library on Dec. 14th; JAS. RUSSELL, M.D., President, in the Chair. There were present twenty-one members of the Branch and two visitors.

Vote of Thanks to Dr. Wade. On the motion of Dr. JEAFFRESON, President of the Association, seconded by Mr. HADLEY, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Wade, on his resignation of the office of Honorary Secretary to the Branch.

New Members. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Branch. John Cooper Garman, Esq., Wednesbury; Wm. Chancellor Garman, Esq., Wednesbury; J. Shaw, Esq., Handsworth; R. P. Walker, Esq., Birmingham; Dr. Vinrace, Birmingham; F. Steele, M.D., General Hospital, Birmingham; Christopher Jeaffreson, Esq., Sydenham College, Birmingham; James Wood, M.D., Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.

New Secretary. On the motion of Dr. JEAFFRESON, seconded by ALFRED BAKER, Esq., Mr. T. H. Bartleet was elected Honorary Secretary of the Branch.

Papers. The following papers were read.

1. Paraplegia. By J. Russell, M.D. The paper was followed by a discussion.

2. New Modification of the Russian Vapour Bath; with Cases successfully treated thereby. By James Williams, M.D.

Reports of Societies.

OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 1865.

ROBERT BARNES, M.D., President, in the Chair.

THE PRESIDENT announced that the Council had resolved to hold a *conversazione* in March next, for the purpose of exhibiting a full collection of instruments used in obstetric practice.

Specimens. Dr. BARNES exhibited a monstrous Fœtus brought to him by Mr. Thane of Canonbury. Also, a voluminous Fibroid Tumour, weighing 1 lb. 13 oz., which, with the assistance of Dr. Hicks, he had successfully removed from the uterus of a lady a month ago.

Dr. RUSSELL of St. Alban's laid before the Society the particulars of a case of Hydatiform Degeneration of the Ovum.

CASE OF OVARIOTOMY. BY J. H. AVELING, M.D.

The operation was performed as follows. As soon as the cyst was reached it was tapped, and the fluid (twenty-one pints) withdrawn. No adhesions existed, and the sac was withdrawn easily. The pedicle, which was short, and about four fingers in breadth, was transfixed by a needle carrying a double thread. The two ends of each ligature were then brought up on either side, and drawn through two wire coils five inches and a half long. Each coil had fitted upon its end a cross-bar; and around these cross-bars the ligatures were secured after they had been drawn sufficiently tight to compress the vessels. The pedicle, after it had been placed in the hook of Dr. Aveling's polyptrite and crushed through, was then

returned *in situ*, and the wound closed with iron-wire sutures. The coil-clamps were removed in forty-eight hours; and the patient made a favourable recovery.

Mr. SPENCER WELLS said that no one method of dealing with the pedicle could be applicable in all cases of ovariectomy. A long pedicle was dealt with so successfully by the clamp, that he desired no better method; but it was still doubtful what was the best mode of proceeding when the pedicle is short. The plan of leaving the ends of silk or twine ligatures hanging out through the wound was so unsuccessful, that the apparatus of Dr. Aveling would probably prove of great advantage in cases of short pedicle in weak patients.

Dr. MARION SIMS said that the clamp was a great improvement on the ligature. He thought Mr. Baker Brown's plan of severing the pedicle by the actual cautery promised great results. He viewed Dr. Aveling's method with favour. He always used a silver wire, and left it to be sacculated. He said the distal end of the severed pedicle did not slough where the wire was applied. The wire became imbedded and hidden in its tissue.

CASE OF LABOUR: CERVIX UTERI HYPERTROPHIED AND UNEVOLUTED. BY G. ROPER, ESQ.

A. E., aged 37, in labour with her eighth child, was found to have the cervix uteri elongated and enlarged, so as to fill the vagina. The os externum was sufficiently dilated to admit the hand, but the os internum was undilated. The occiput presented. Version having been tried and failed, and the funis being pulseless, the head was perforated, and after some difficulty the child was extracted. During extraction the cervix uteri protruded from the vulva, and the effects of pressure and distension on it could be well observed. The difficulty consisted, not in having a rigid os uteri to deal with, but the entire cervix had to be expanded, dilatation of the os internum constituting the chief difficulty. The author discussed the question whether craniotomy alone, or dismemberment and exvisceration of the fœtus, is the best for such a case.

PROCIDENTIA UTERI. BY J. MARION SIMS, M.D.

Dr. SIMS said that a procidentia was complete when the vagina was inverted and formed its outer covering—incomplete when the cervix only passed through the vulva; that a broad pubic arch, divergent rami, a relaxed perineum, and a retroversion, were essential to its production; that in some cases the infravaginal cervix was elongated, and came down first, but that in the majority of chronic cases a vagino-cystocele formed the first stage of procidentia. For the first he advocated amputation of the cervix, and said this was generally alone sufficient; but for the second he preferred to narrow the vagina. This idea, he said, originated with Marshall Hall; but he did not think the operation had ever succeeded till the introduction of metallic sutures. He then gave an account of the operation from the time he first performed it in 1857 till now, showing its gradual advancement to its present state of perfection. He illustrated the subject fully by diagrams. In 1857 he narrowed the anterior wall of the vagina by excising a large ellipsis of it, and then bringing the lateral borders together with silver sutures. Afterwards he simply denuded the surface of its epithelial membrane; then he simplified the operation by making a V-shaped scarification; and subsequently he made it trowel-shaped or triangular, the point being at the neck of the bladder, and the broad portion in juxtaposition with the cervix uteri. In all these methods, the object was to remove the cysto-

abandoned; or to the efficacy of the tonic and astringent vehicle which contained it, and which was persevered in to the end, after the purgative was withdrawn?

If the cures were effected by the purgative salts as an eliminative, then the acid infusion need not have been given at all; but it seems Mr. Newton's basis of cure was the acid as a tonic and astringent, as he omitted the salts, and relied mainly on the former as his remedial agent. Therefore it must be admitted, I think, that Mr. Newton's practice was not in accordance with Dr. George Johnson's theory—was not, in fact, eliminative, but, in its principal points, tonic and astringent. Obviously, this practice of Mr. Newton's was scarcely in any respect in correspondence with that recommended by Dr. George Johnson—viz., the administration of castor-oil. In closer alliance with the latter was the practice mentioned by another of your correspondents, consisting of two grains of calomel every hour; the result being, that upwards of thirty per cent. of the patients so treated died.

The advantages of the acid treatment appear to be these, viz., that it is tonic, astringent, and, more than all, *chemically antagonistic* to the cholera poison. The best methods of administering the mineral acids in cholera rest with the profession, and might vary according as the circumstances and symptoms of the cases were presented to view.

I am, etc., GEORGE BODINGTON.

Sutton Coldfield, December 18th, 1865.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

LETTER FROM RICHARD GRIFFIN, ESQ.

SIR,—I must again crave your indulgence for space to inform the Poor-law medical officers that I have prepared the draft of a Bill on the subject of Poor-law medical relief, and have transmitted it to Dr. Henry for the opinion of the Poor-law Medical Relief Committee of the British Medical Association.

I regret that the letter published by me in your JOURNAL of December 2nd should have caused any unpleasantness to Mr. Jackson, as it appears it has by his letter in your JOURNAL of December 16th. I asked its insertion, simply because it is an apt illustration of what is daily occurring in almost every union. I expunged Mr. Jackson's name and address, to avoid his being brought into collision with his guardians; but in this, it seems, I have utterly failed. I trust, however, now that the subject has been brought before the Chester le Street Board of Guardians, they will, without loss of time, take into consideration the salaries of their medical officers, and give them such an increase as will enable them to do their duty to the poor with an ungrudging spirit, which cannot be the case so long as the guardians pay only £60 per annum for attending the entire union, with a population in 1861 of 27,665, or at the rate of one halfpenny per head. Mr. Jackson puts this question: "Has every Board of Guardians in the kingdom been favoured with a copy of these papers?" My reply to this is, I have not sent them to either the Chester le Street or any other Board of Guardians, and suspect he must look a little nearer home for information.

Since the last publication of the list of subscribers, I have received the following sums of money, which I have carried to the account of the Association:—Dr. Sankey, Hollingbourn, 20s.; David Skinner, Hollingbourn, 5s.; H. T. Wood, Tavistock, 5s.; T. Robinson, Cheadle, 5s.; W. Sheppard, Ashford West, 10s.; W. Woodward, Worcester, 5s.

I am, etc., RICHARD GRIFFIN.

12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, December 18th, 1865.

Medical News.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. At a Congregation holden on December 14th, the degree of M.B. was conferred on

Smith, Heywood, M.A., Christ Church

At a Congregation on December 18th, the same degree was conferred on

Mayo, Charles, M.A., Fellow of New College

Shepherd, Augustus B., M.A., Brasenose College

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On December 14th, 1865, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Bobart, William Matthews, Wilmot Street, Derby
Cooke, George Richards, South Belgravia
Davies, Nathaniel Edward, Llanrwst, North Wales
Edwards, Joshua Price, Tunstall, Staffordshire
Humphreys, John, Branch Dispensary, Cheltenham
Perkins, John Shirley Steele, Exeter
Philpot, Charles William, King's College Hospital
Wright, John Harrington, Lower Road, Woolwich

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

Adcock, Charles, Queen's College, Birmingham
Stanger, William, Guy's Hospital
Willcox, Robert Lewis, King's College

APPOINTMENTS.

*HUTCHINSON, Jonathan, Esq., appointed Surgeon to the Hospital for Diseases of the Skin.

NAYLOR, George, Esq., appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the Hospital for Diseases of the Skin.

DEATHS.

BAKER. On December 15th, at Derby, aged 7, Helen Wilson, daughter of *J. Wright Baker, Esq.

CATON. On December 16th, at Brighton, Elizabeth Jane, widow of Thomas Mott Caton, M.D.

FORMBY, Richard, M.D., at Shorrock's Hill, near Liverpool, aged 75, on December 15.

HARRIS, W., Esq., Surgeon, formerly of Bolsover, at Andover Villas, Stoke Newington, aged 67, on December 16.

JULIUS. On September 29th, at Melbourne, Australia, aged 23, George F. H., eldest son of F. G. Julius, M.D., of Richmond, Surrey.

NORCOTT. On December 12th, at Shirley, Southampton, aged 54, Louisa Mary, wife of William Boyle Norcott, Esq., Surgeon.

READ, Thomas, Esq., Surgeon, at Hornton Street, Kensington, aged 64, on December 13.

RIDSDALE, Henry R. S., Esq., Surgeon, at Southampton, aged 28, on December 14.

TERRY. On December 28th, at Bournemouth, aged 23, John Terry, M.A., sixth son of *Henry Terry, Esq., of Northampton.

CONGRESS OF BOTANISTS. We (*Reader*) understand that a grand congress of European botanists is soon to be held in London, under the presidency of the veteran De Candolle, and that the Lord Mayor is to give a special dinner upon the occasion.

THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. The medical students of the University of Edinburgh, having observed in the *University Calendar* for this year a notice intimating that, whilst the usual Christmas holidays are to be granted to students of the Faculties of Arts, Law, and Divinity, they are to be denied to students of Medicine, have, in a letter addressed to the Senatus, remonstrated and protested against such innovation. The explanation given by the Senatus, is that they have sacrificed the Christmas holidays in order to be able to close the session at the end of March, instead of carrying it on to the third week in April; and that, though Englishmen like to enjoy a merry Christmas, they, being in small minority, would inflict a fortnight's unpleasant idleness on the larger number of Scotchmen. In reference to this appeal, the Court have expressed their willingness to consent to the Christmas holidays being as in recent years should the Senatus, on a reconsideration of the subject, see fit to change its mind.

HIGH BAROMETRIC PRESSURE. Dr. Fielding of Tunbridge states that the barometer during the last week has indicated a greater atmospheric pressure than he has ever recorded during the last forty years. On the 8th, it stood at 30.702; and on the 16th, at 30.747.

DR. ROBERT FOWLER is, we learn, a candidate for the appointment of medical officer to the Charterhouse, London. Dr. Fowler is well known to the profession as a scientific and earnest practitioner of medicine, and has testimonials of the highest character showing his fitness for the office which he now seeks to occupy.

ODONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN. The annual general meeting of this society will be held at 32, Soho Square, on January 8th, 1866 (instead of January 1st), at eight o'clock P.M., for the purpose of electing the officers and council for the ensuing year. Some alterations in the bye-laws will also be proposed by the Council.

EXPULSION OF FRENCH STUDENTS. Six Paris students of law and medicine who attended the Congress at Liege, and there indulged in some silly republican theories, have been officially informed that they are formally prohibited from ever continuing their studies in Paris, and that all the other law and medical schools would be closed to them for a period not specified.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE. The Vice-Chancellor has given notice that there will be a Congregation on Thursday, February 8th, 1866, at two o'clock, instead of at twelve, as stated in the previous notice. The grace proposing the establishment of the Professorship of Comparative Anatomy and Zoology (having received the sanction of the Council), will then be offered to the Senate.

DEATH OF M. BIXIO. The French papers announce the death of Dr. Bixio, whose name was once and for many years mixed up with political parties. During the June insurrection of 1848, he was hit by a bullet in the breast, and for a time his life was despaired of. He was a staunch republican, and admired by all as an honest man. After the *coup d'état* of the 2nd of December, he retired from public, and gave himself up to scientific pursuits. His funeral, to the surprise of many, was attended by Prince Napoleon.

GENERAL MORTALITY. The weekly return for the principal towns shows a mortality of 3,090, or at the rate of 28 in the 1,000. London this week figures as the healthiest—healthier even than Bristol, for its death-rate is 25, while Bristol is 26. Liverpool also has lost for the nonce its character as the deadliest place in England; that disgrace is this week reserved for Salford, whose death-rate is 45, while Liverpool is 43. Of the whole number of deaths, 1,440 belong to London, which is 10 below the average. The births were 4,120 for all the towns, of which 2,098 were in London. This is slightly above the average.

THE ASSAULT ON DR. HUNTER. At the Central Criminal Court, on Monday last, the trial of Jones and Merrick for the assault on Dr. Hunter came off. It will be remembered that Merrick was the husband and Jones the brother of the young woman who charged Dr. Hunter with assaulting her, and that they went to Dr. Hunter's house and inflicted on him personal chastisement for the alleged outrage. The circumstances of the assault were fully proved; and Dr. Hunter again denied on his oath the truth of the charge brought against him. The jury returned a verdict of a common assault against both.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY..... Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's for Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum, 9 A.M. and 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.—St. Thomas'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 Orthopædic, 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, 9.30 A.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. Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8 P.M.—Zoological.—Ethnological.
THURSDAY. Royal Society.

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.

DR. MUNROE'S EXPERIMENTS IN DIGESTION.—SIR: Before we can properly estimate the value of Dr. Munroe's investigations, it is needful to know the composition of his so-called "artificial gastric juice" and the method which he adopted to prove that the deposited matter was pepsine. Probably he would favour us with this information.
I am, etc., EDWARD SMITH.

16, Queen Anne Street, W., Dec. 20th, 1865.

VOTING AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—SIR: It may be well that I assure those who entrusted me with memorials and notes of address to the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, that they were duly presented on Thursday last. With the former, they raised the whole number of names to one hundred and fifty.

I believe those members of Council who voted adversely to the memorialists were influenced by the feeling that the evidence of interest thus shown in a body of thirteen hundred Fellows, was not sufficient to warrant the step of going to Parliament for a new Charter.

I am, etc., THOMAS PAGET.
Leicester, Dec. 19th, 1865.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Mr. SAMUEL SOLLY; Mr. C. GAINES; Mr. A. B. STEELE; Mr. C. P. COOMBS; Dr. MUNROE; Dr. SIMPSON; Mr. J. C. S. JENNINGS; Mr. RICHARD GRIFFIN; Mr. R. HARRISON; Mr. JNO. ROBINSON; Dr. GEORGE BODINGTON; Mr. T. M. STONE; Mr. BARTLEET; Mr. W. MICHELL CLARKE; Mr. W. J. TUBBS; Dr. BOECK; Dr. FOWLER; Dr. JAMES RUSSELL; Mr. G. NAYLOR; Dr. E. SMITH; and Mr. S. EVANS.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. A Tariff of Medical Fees for Bridgewater and its Neighbourhood. Bridgewater: 1865.
2. Cancerous Diseases of Bone. By W. Hickman, M.B. London: 1865.
3. On Wakefulness. By W. A. Hammond, M.D. Philadelphia: 1866.
4. The Atlantic Telegraph. By W. H. Russell. London: 1865.