

The work referred to is on Enlarged Tonsils; and the author advocates the destruction of the glands by the application of caustic potash.

As an apology for the publication of the treatise, Mr. Smith commences his preface as follows:—

“Having paid some attention to the anatomy, physiology, and diseases of the tonsils, and been struck with the want of concurrence between the observations of those—and they are few—who have treated of these subjects, and my own, I have been induced to publish the latter in the form of separate *brochures* at short intervals, each treating of one or more points according to its or their importance. I have chosen this method in the hope of being aided as I go on by the labours or observations of any of my professional brethren, who have felt an interest in tonsillitic affections akin to my own,” etc.

It is quite unnecessary for me to call the attention of your readers to the singularly involved and ambiguous sentences contained in these paragraphs; but I would remark that, though “they are few” who have treated on Mr. Smith’s subject, they have completely anticipated his observations.

I forward you a reprint of a paper published by Dr. Morell Mackenzie in the *Medical Mirror* of August 1864, in which Dr. Mackenzie, whilst referring to the mode pursued by Dr. Fournié of Paris, of destroying tonsils with Vienna paste, gives his reasons for preferring a milder escharotic, in which caustic soda is the active agent. Whilst Dr. Mackenzie gave all the credit of the principle to Dr. Fournié, he himself had a very ingenious instrument contrived for applying the caustic which he recommends. Dr. Mackenzie’s instrument was made by the same maker who, at a later period, made one for Mr. Smith. I make no remark on this curious coincidence; but I would observe that, unless Mr. Smith does justice to his predecessors, he can scarcely expect to be aided as he goes on by the labours and observations of his professional brethren.

I am, Sir, GEORGE EVANS, JUN.
Surgeon St. Marylebone Dispensary.

Welbeck Street, Dec. 20, 1865.

P.S.—About a year ago, and consequently long before I had the pleasure of perusing Mr. Smith’s able work, I successfully employed the plan recommended by Dr. Mackenzie, and therefore feel myself bound to come forward on this occasion.

AMERICAN HOSPITALS. The number of sick and wounded in the United States hospitals throughout the country is less than five thousand. Eight months since there were over one hundred thousand patients.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN IRELAND. The last quarterly return of the Registrar-General of Ireland indicates that prosperity and Fenianism run together in that country. Comparative freedom from epidemic disease, fine weather, and good wages, all combined to render the quarter ending September 30th unusually healthy. Fever was the cause of few deaths, and these chiefly occurred in localities where *sanitary precautions were wholly neglected*. Deaths from small-pox were comparatively few, and nearly all the persons who succumbed had *not been vaccinated*. Scarlatina was, as usual, very fatal wherever sanitary precautions were defective. Diarrhoea was more than usually prevalent, and some cases of the ordinary autumnal cholera proved fatal; Asiatic cholera generally recovered. Diarrhoea caused 131 deaths in the Dublin registration district during the quarter; of this number 55 were of infants under one year old, and 27 were of children between one and five years old.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. At a general meeting of the Fellows, held on Friday, December 22nd, 1865, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, were duly admitted members of the College:—

Archer, Edmond, Queenstown, Cape of Good Hope
Bastian, Henry Charlton, M.B.Lond., Broadmoor, Wokingham
Duckworth, Dyce, M.D.Edin., Wimpole Street
Hicks, John Wale, M.D.Lond., St. Thomas’s Hospital
Lush, John A., M.D.St. Andrews, Fisherton House, Salisbury
Pye-Smith, Philip H., M.D.Lond., Anchor Terrace, Southwark
Smith, Heywood, M.B.Oxon., Park Street, Grosvenor Square
Williams, Charles Theodore, M.B.Oxon., Upper Brook Street

The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, and satisfied the College of their proficiency in the science and practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery, were duly admitted to practise physic as Licentiates of the College:—

Barber, William Henry, Crickhowell
Barracough, Robert Wooding Sutton, Streatham Hill
Buckle, William Turberville, 9, New Ormond Street
Freeman, Henry William, United Hospital, Bath
German, Joseph, Friar Gate, Derby
Hall, Henry John, 2, Maud Road, Carter Street, Walworth
Haydon, Nathaniel Thomas John, St. Mary’s Hospital
Kempthorne, John, Callington, Cornwall
Mullan, William James, Rye, Sussex
Smith, James William, Whitby
Stedman, James, 43, Rotherfield Street, Islington
Thorne, Richard Thorne, Sussex House Asylum, Hammersmith

APOTHECARIES’ HALL. On December 21st, 1865, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Barracough, Robert W. S., Streatham Hill, Brixton
Broughton, Robert David, Ruyton-of-the-Eleven-Towns, Salop
Folliott, James, Egerton Villas, Douglas Road
Hembrough, John William, Waltham, Lincolnshire
Manby, Frederic Edward, East Rudham, Norfolk
Smith, Samuel Hignett, Weavenham, Cheshire
Spencer, George Othwaite, Horbury Terrace, Notting Hill
Weller, George, Fairfield Villas, Bow Road

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

Glaister, Harry Burrill, Royal Infirmary, Liverpool
Meadows, Charles John Walford, Guy’s Hospital

APPOINTMENTS.

BONNEY, William, Esq., appointed Resident Obstetric Assistant at the Middlesex Hospital.

*BURT, George, Esq., appointed Surgeon to the Hospital for Diseases of the Skin.

GRIFFITH, George, Esq., appointed Government Surgeon to the Forts and Batteries at Milford Haven.

SMITH, E. Noble, Esq., appointed Honorary Apothecary to the Lock Hospital at Westbourn.

ARMY.

BARNETT, Assistant-Surgeon O., 12th Lancers, to be Assistant-Surgeon 11th Hussars, *vice* W. H. Muschamp.

MUSCHAMP, Assistant-Surgeon W. H., 11th Hussars, to be Assistant-Surgeon 12th Lancers, *vice* O. Barnett.

ROYAL NAVY.

MAIR, George, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Lizard*.

SIMPSON, John, M.D., Surgeon, to the *Fisgard*, for the Royal Marine Infirmary, Woolwich.

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

CLARK, W. W., M.D., to be Honorary Surgeon 1st Administrative Battalion Northamptonshire R.V.

WRIGHT, S., Esq., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 5th Cambridgeshire R.V.

BIRTH.

NASON. On December 16th, at Stratford-upon-Avon, the wife of *John James Nason, M.B., of a daughter.

DEATHS.

CLEMINGER. On December 16th, in Dublin, Harriet, widow of Henry Cleminger, Esq., Surgeon R.N.

DAVIES. On December 24th, at Laugherne House, Pershore, Aney, wife of *Francis Davies, Esq.
 HUNTLEY. On December 18th, at Norwood, aged 2, Albert Lord, only son of L. Huntley, Esq., Surgeon.

Dr. A. HASSALL has registered a process for "improvements in the preparation of meat for food."

AMALGAMATED JOURNALS. The *Dublin Medical Press* announces an incorporation of the *Medical Press* and *Medical Circular*.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH. The Senatus Academicus have granted the application of the medical students for Christmas holidays.

GERMAN YEAST is mostly obtained from the distillers at Hamburg and Rotterdam. One formula directs the fermentation of a decoction of rye-meal and honey.

AN EPIDEMIC TYPHUS which prevailed for a time in the Garden of Acclimatisation of the Bois de Boulogne has now entirely disappeared. It caused the loss of thirty-five animals.

HEALTH OF LONDON. The weekly report of the Registrar-General shows that the mortality of London is very heavy. The deaths exceed the average by 175.

VISITATION OF EXAMINATIONS. Dr. Hargrave visited the examinations for the Surgical Degree in Trinity College, Dublin, held during the Michaelmas Term of the year 1865. (*Medical Press*.)

SANITARY COMMISSION FOR GIBRALTAR. A proclamation has been issued by Sir Richard Airey, the Governor of Gibraltar, appointing sanitary commissioners for Gibraltar. On the 16th, the Sanitary Commissioners held their first meeting.

BARONETCY CONFERRED ON MR. FERGUSON. Her Majesty has been pleased to confer the title of a Baronet of the United Kingdom on William Ferguson, Esq., F.R.S., Professor of Surgery to King's College.

BEAUTIFUL BRAY! The Irish Registrar-General says: "In the Bray district, sixteen of the deaths were referred to scarlatina. The Registrar remarks that the disease still prevails, and adds: 'Supply of water, ventilation of houses and sewerage, very defective in this district amongst the poor.'"

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY. The bronze medallion of the society has been awarded to Mr. W. N. Manley, assistant-surgeon, R.A., for saving Bombardier Malden, R.A., who fell from the steamer *L'avourite* into the Waitotara River, New Zealand, on July 21st last.

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. PATERSON. Dr. James Paterson, of Glasgow, has been presented with a testimonial subscribed for by a large number of citizens, as a mark of respect for, and sympathy with him in the difficult position in which he was placed in connection with Dr. Pritchard's trial. The testimonial consisted of a purse, containing 200 guineas, and a handsome silver salver bearing a suitable inscription.

MURDER IN A LUNATIC ASYLUM. At the recent assizes, in Leeds, an inmate of the West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum was indicted for the wilful murder of another lunatic, named William Burran. The prisoner had the reputation of being a quiet and harmless man, but one morning he seized a heavy coal shovel and killed the deceased by repeated blows on the head. He afterwards said that voices in the air ordered him to save his own life by killing a man, but he expressed his sorrow that he had not killed some one else than the deceased. The verdict was returned that he was of unsound mind.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. The Royal Commission on Capital Punishments has just made its report. The commissioners recommend that the extreme sentence of the law should be inflicted on persons guilty of treason, murder committed with express and evidently shown malice aforethought, and murder committed in connection with the perpetration of other great crimes; that for cases of murder where the malice is more matter of construction than fact, the capital sentence be not inflicted; that the law on child murder be better defined; and, finally, that executions be carried out in private, with, of course, due precautions for the satisfaction of the public that the punishment has been inflicted.

DEATHS FROM LIGHTNING. The *Gazette des Hôpitaux* states that there were 87 persons struck dead by lightning in France during the year 1864, of whom 61 were men and 26 women. The number of deaths in France from a similar cause in 1863 was 103. From 1835 to 1864 the number of deaths from lightning in the 86 ancient departments of France amounted to 2,311. By adding 120 deaths, at the rate of four a year, for the three new departments, we find that there were 2,431 deaths from lightning within 30 years in France as it is at present constituted. It has been further ascertained that the number of persons wounded by lightning in France during the same period was four times the number of killed.

HEALTHINESS OF IRON-CLADS. Some extraordinary statistics concerning the comparative healthiness of iron-clads and wooden vessels are given in the report of the chief of the bureau of medicine and surgery. The monitor class of vessels, it is well known, have but a few inches of their hulls above the water line, and in a heavy sea are entirely submerged. It has been doubted whether, under such circumstances, it would be possible long to preserve the health of the men on board, and consequently to maintain the fighting material in a condition for effective service. An examination of the sick reports shows that there was less sickness on board the monitor vessels than on the same number of wooden ships with an equal number of men and in similarly exposed situations. The conclusion is, that no wooden vessels in any squadron throughout the world can show an equal immunity from disease. (*Report on the Navy, Washington.*)

OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. It is intended to hold a *conversazione* of this society in March 1866, on a day to be hereafter fixed, at which it is proposed to exhibit instruments and appliances used in obstetrical practice: viz., for midwifery; for the investigation and treatment of the diseases of women; for the management of infants; and miscellaneous for collateral subjects. The Council are especially anxious to obtain specimens illustrating the original forms of obstetric instruments, and the modifications adopted at different times and in various countries. Exhibitors are requested to attach to each instrument a short description, specifying, as far as possible, the name of the instrument, the name of the inventor or modifier, the date of its first construction and publication, together with the name of the actual exhibitor. It is also particularly requested that a full list or invoice be sent with every collection.

THE "TIMES" IN THE PILLORY. Sir J. Tyrell writes as follows in the *Times*:—"Supposing that by this time the doctrine of the Mansion-house in regard to Sanitariums, and its advocacy by the *Times*, are exploded, and, if possible, the more wretched but equally mischievous doctrines of homœopaths are abandoned, there is hope that the unanimous views of the Royal

Agricultural Society, etc., will be embodied in edicts from the Privy Council. The mischievous statement that 75 beasts were cured in Holland, which went the round of the papers to suit the homoeopaths, was coined in this way. The two or three out of twenty that sometimes survive the attack, all that survive from the lung-complaint, and the whole from the foot-and-mouth that get well of themselves, make up the rest; the statement being utterly at variance with the facts. Having no Opposition to take advantage of any shortcomings, the sagacious Emperor of the French and his Minister of Agriculture well know how to best deal with this matter. At this moment Boulogne is enjoying good meat of all kinds; butter, cream, and milk without fear and without stint."

A COMPLIMENT TO LONDON DOCTORS. Dr. Howard, in an introductory address delivered at the McGill University, Montreal, gave some of the impressions made upon him during his recent visit to the London schools of medicine. He alluded to the vast field of observation existing among the numerous large and well endowed hospitals of the metropolis. He noticed the untiring industry of the physicians and surgeons of the hospital, it being no uncommon thing to be attached to two hospitals, and sometimes even three; and spoke in terms of admiration of their caution in drawing conclusions, their candour in confessing their ignorance, and their modesty and reserve in the expression of opinion upon vexed questions in science. (*Canada Med. Jour.*)

LADIES' SANITARY ASSOCIATION, LEEDS BRANCH. The first annual meeting of this Branch was held in the Philosophical Hall, on Monday, the 18th instant, when a large audience was present—the Lord Bishop of Ripon in the chair, who was supported by several influential ladies and gentlemen, the leading clergy, etc. The Honorary Secretary, Mr. Ikin, read the report, showing the operations and utility of the Branch; it also referred to the present defective sanitary condition of Leeds, and made several practical suggestions to lessen, if not remove, the evils now existing. It recommended the appointment of a medical officer of health; and urged that some independent efficient scientific gentleman, not a local practitioner, should be fixed upon. The corporation of Leeds were urged to take active measures to lessen the undue mortality now existing, and co-operation of all parties with the authorities recommended. Letters were read from the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Right Hon. W. Cowper, M.P., and other influential sanitary reformers, expressing their interest in the cause, and their regret at not being able to be present. The Bishop of Ripon, formerly a clergyman of St. Giles's, London, made a most excellent speech, and referred to his previous sanitary labours in the metropolis. Dr. B. W. Richardson, who attended the meeting at the express invitation of the Branch, spoke of the difficulties which sanitary reformers and societies had always at first to contend against, and on the apathy of the public till panic moved them to action. He referred to the objects of the present Association, and alluded to several important points, such as the removal of the sick, their conveyance from their homes to the hospital; the danger of communicating disease from laundries where clothes were indiscriminately collected; to the great need of a better class of work-rooms, especially for sempstresses, tailors, and others. He saw no reason why Leeds should not become as healthy as any other town in England; for it was advantageously circumstanced, and had ample opportunities of making sanitary improvement. The meeting was a highly successful one, and cannot fail to produce good results.

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 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, 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.

MONDAY. Odontological Society (Anniversary).
TUESDAY. Pathological Society of London, 8 P.M.—Anthropological Society, 8 P.M. (Anniversary).
WEDNESDAY. Obstetrical Society of London, 8 P.M. Annual Meeting for election of Officers; President's Address; Papers by Drs. Eastlake, Snow Beck, Hall Davis, etc.
THURSDAY. Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. Anniversary President's Address and election of Officers.

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.

CATTLE-PLAGUE OR RINDERPEST?—SIR: Can you inform me on what principle some of the writers of letters to newspapers speak of the "spread of the Rinderpest", while I do not find that any Germans allude to "Verbreitung der Cattle-plague"? One of the daily journals informed the public that the disease was known in Russia by the name of "Rinderpest". Quite startling information to any Muscovite farmer, I should fancy. While our Government officials stick to plain English, the newspapers with their "Rinderpest" sadly puzzle the agricultural mind. I observe that all people who are ignorant of German, make the foreign word still more ridiculous, by pronouncing the first two syllables as if they rhymed with "grinder". I am, etc., D.

December 29th, 1865.

THE GRIFFIN TESTIMONIAL FUND.—SIR: The following subscriptions have been further received on behalf of the above Fund:—E. B. Adams, Esq. (Bungay), 10s.; Squire Sprigge, Esq. (Watton), 10s.; and Messrs. Roberts and Williams (Festiniog), £1:1.

Amount previously announced, £139:12:3.

I am, etc.,

ROBERT FOWLER, M.D.,

Treasurer and Hon. Sec.

145, Bishopsgate Street Without, December 27th, 1865.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. HENRY BROWNE; Dr. G. K. H. PATERSON; Mr. F. DAVIES; Mr. PAU BELCHER; THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE OBSTETRIC SOCIETY; Dr. BOECK; Mr. G. GAINES; Mr. SYME; Mr. WILLIAM CORNEY; Dr. SIMPSON; Dr. NASON; Mr. J. HOWE; Dr. GEORGE JOHNSON; Mr. G. BURT; Mr. J. ADAMSON; D.; Dr. OBER FOWLER and Mr. T. M. STONE.

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