

Association Intelligence.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Chester, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th days of August next.

All the Meetings will be held in the Music Hall.

President—S. J. JEAFFRESON, M.D. Cantab.

President-elect—EDWARD WATERS, M.D. Edin.

TUESDAY, August 7th.

2 P.M. Meeting of Directors of Medical Provident Society.

3 P.M. Meeting of Committee of Council.

4 P.M. Meeting of General Council.

8 P.M. First General Meeting.

The retiring President (Dr. Jeaffreson) will resign his office.

The new President (Dr. Waters) will deliver his Inaugural Address.

The Council's Report will be read, and discussion taken thereon.

Election of General Secretary.

Report of Medical Provident Society will be presented.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Medical Provident Society.

WEDNESDAY, August 8th.

8.30 A.M. Public Breakfast in the Corn Exchange. Tickets, 2s. 6d. each.

10 A.M. Meeting of New Council.

11 A.M. Second General Meeting.

Dr. SIBSON, F.R.S., and Mr. HOLMES. What is the influence of Hospitals on Health and Mortality? with discussion thereon.

Papers and Cases on *Medical* subjects.

Adjourn at One o'clock for Luncheon.

2 P.M. Third General Meeting.

Presentation of Hastings Medal.

Address in Medicine by Professor BENNETT, M.D.

4 P.M. Full Cathedral Service, by permission of the Dean, in the Cathedral; and a Sermon by the Rev. Canon McNeil, D.D.

Papers and Cases on *Medical* subjects.

Adjourn at 5 P.M.

THURSDAY, August 9th.

9 A.M. Meeting of New Directors of Medical Provident Society.

10 A.M. Fourth General Meeting.

Report of Medical Benevolent Fund will be presented.

Dr. STEWART: Is the Expectant Treatment to be relied upon in any form of Acute Disease? with discussion thereon.

Mr. ALFRED BAKER: Are there any trustworthy Facts as to the Origin of Pyæmia? with discussion thereon.

Adjourn at One o'clock for Luncheon.

2 P.M. Fifth General Meeting.

Report from Medical Witnesses Committee will be presented.

Address in Surgery by WILLIAM BOWMAN, Esq., F.R.S.

Papers and Cases on *Surgical* subjects.

Adjourn at 5 P.M.

9 P.M. *Soirée*, by invitation of the President.

FRIDAY, August 10th.

10 A.M. Sixth General Meeting.

Professor CHRISTISON, M.D.: Observations on the Register of Deaths in Scotland; with discussion thereon.

Papers on *Medical, Surgical, and Obstetric* subjects. Adjourn at One o'clock for Luncheon.

2 P.M. Seventh General Meeting.

Papers on *Medical, Surgical, and Obstetric* subjects.

3 P.M. Mr. SPENCER WELLS will perform Ovariectomy in Chester Infirmary, in illustration of a communication.

6 P.M. Public Dinner at the Grosvenor Hotel. Tickets, One Guinea each. Gentleman intending to be present at the Dinner are requested to give notice to the Hon. Local Secretary, JOHN HARRISON, Esq., 55, Nicholas Street, Chester.

Members are requested, immediately on their arrival, to enter their names and addresses in the Reception-Room, at the Music Hall, when cards will be supplied which will secure admission to all the proceedings.

A Clerk will be in attendance at the Reception-Room, and will give information respecting Private Lodgings, Hotels, etc.

To facilitate Excursions in the neighbourhood, the Clerk in attendance will be prepared to receive the names of gentlemen wishing to make such Excursions, and to arrange for the same.

Members who may wish for information previous to the meeting, may communicate with JOHN HARRISON, Esq., the Honorary Local Secretary.

The public will be admitted, on application to the President, to attend the discussion on Scientific and State Medicine.

Notices of Motion. Mr. WATKIN WILLIAMS: To alter Law VIII, by inserting the word "Treasurer" after the words "President of the Council."

Dr. MACKESY will move: "That a favourable opportunity now presents for soliciting the attention of the Government, the public, and the members of our profession, to the question of granting Parliamentary Representation to the Medical Profession in its collective capacity; that with a view to the accomplishment of this important object, the Council be empowered to take such measures as they may consider judicious to promote its success, by presenting memorials to the Government, petitions to both Houses of Parliament, and by communicating with the Medical Universities, Colleges, and Associations, to urge their zealous cooperation."

Dr. MARSH will bring forward the subject of the New Sydenham Club.

Papers have been promised by

A. B. STEELE, Esq. (Liverpool): On the Present State of Public Vaccination in England.

B. W. FOSTER, M.D. (Birmingham): Illustrations of the Use of the Sphygmograph.

JOHN BIRKETT, Esq. (London): The Results attending the Removal of the First Growth of Cancer.

J. Z. LAURENCE, Esq. (London): On Removal of the Lacrymal Gland—a Radical Cure of Inveterate Cases of Lacrymal Abscess.

THOMAS NUNNELEY, Esq. (Leeds): On Reduction of Dislocations by Manipulation; On Removal of the Entire Tongue.

THOMAS SKINNER, M.D. (Liverpool): The Philosophy of the Algide Condition in Cholera.

THOMAS HILLIER, M.D. (London): An Account of Cases of Pyogenic Fever cured by Large Doses of Quinine; Account of Cases of Pleurisy requiring Thoracentesis.

BALMANNO SQUIRE, M.B. (London): The Treatment of Lichenous Disease of the Skin.

W. CAMPS, M.D. (London): Is there any Evidence to show that the Par Vagus—the Pneumogastric Nerve—is concerned in the production of the Epileptic Paroxysm?

JAMES RHODES, Esq. (Glossop): The Relationship of Forces as they exist in the healthy Human Being, and the Pathological Conditions induced by their imperfect development.

T. T. GRIFFITH, Esq. (Wrexham): Three Cases of Compound Dislocation of the Astragalus, with Removal of the Bones.

W. H. BROADBENT, M.D. (London): Cancer—a New Method of Treatment, by which Malignant Tumours may be Removed with little Pain or Constitutional Disturbance.

I. BAKER BROWN, Esq. (London): On the Use of the Actual Caution in Ovariectomy.

HENRY DICK, M.D. (London): On Loose Cartilages in the Articulations, and a New Instrument to extract them.

JAMES PAGET, F.R.S. (London): A Case of Herpes in part of the Distribution of the Right Inferior Maxillary Nerve.

ERASMUS WILSON, F.R.S. (London): On Lichen Planus; the Lichen Ruber of Hebra.

ERASMUS WILSON, F.R.S. (London): On a probable necessity for the revival of the Leper Hospitals of Great Britain.

THOMAS BALMAN, M.D. (Liverpool): On Azoturia. J. BIRKBECK NEVINS, M.D. (Liverpool): On the Treatment of Rheumatic Fever.

In order to facilitate the business of the meeting, it is particularly requested that all Papers be sent to the General Secretary on or before the 1st of August, if possible.

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, *General Secretary*.

13, Newhall Street, Birmingham, July 24th, 1866.

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of this Branch was held at the Museum Room, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, on Friday June 29th; T. W. CROSSE, Esq., President. There were present: Drs. Chevallier, Copeman, Dalrymple, Durrant, Eade, Elliston, Pitt, and Vores; Messrs. Adams, Allen, Cadge, Clouting, Crawford, Edden, Edwards, Freeman, Hutchison, Kendall, Payne, Taylor; and five visitors.

The President delivered an eloquent address.

Report. Dr. PITT, the Honorary Secretary for Norfolk, read a short report of Council, congratulating the members on assembling in Norwich, and on the continued success of their Branch.

Resolutions. The following resolutions were passed.

Moved by Dr. DURRANT (Ipswich), and seconded by Mr. CADGE (Norwich)—

“That the thanks of the meeting be given to Dr. Bartlet, the retiring President, for his services to the East Anglian Branch of the British Medical Association during his year of office.”

Moved by Mr. KENDALL (Lynn), and seconded by Dr. VORES (Yarmouth)—

“That the Directors of the Medical Provident Society, and Members of the Branch Council be re-elected.”

Moved by Mr. CADGE (Norwich), and seconded by Mr. S. FREEMAN (Stowmarket)—

“That the Honorary Secretaries be re-elected.”

Moved by Mr. CLOUTING (Shipdham), and seconded by Dr. DALRYMPLE (Norwich)—

“That the best thanks of this meeting be given to the Members of the Council, and the Honorary Secretaries, for their services during the past year.”

Moved by Dr. COPEMAN (Norwich), and seconded by Mr. CADGE (Norwich)—

“That the next annual meeting of the East Anglian Branch be held in combination with the Cambridge and Huntingdon Branch, at Lynn, and that Dr. Hawkins be elected President.”

Communications. The following paper was read. On Melasma and Allied Affections. By P. EADE, M.D.

A discussion thereon followed, which was shared in by Mr. Crosse, Dr. Durrant, Dr. Elliston, Dr. Copeman, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Adams.

It was determined to forward this paper to the JOURNAL.

The following case was stated *viva voce* by Mr. Cadge. Abdominal Tumour; Mistaken Diagnosis; Operation; Fibroid Tumour in Walls of Uterus; Removal of Uterus and Ovaries; Death after Thirty or Thirty-six hours. An interesting discussion took place on this case, in which Dr. Copeman, Dr. Durrant, Dr. Eade, Mr. Crowfoot, Mr. Edden, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Adams took part. Mr. Crowfoot believed that in all cases of long standing ovarian disease, the patient generally became thin.

Votes of Thanks were unanimously given to the President, Readers of Papers, and Honorary Secretaries.

The Dinner. The members, to the number of twenty-four, dined at half-past five, at the Royal Hotel. The President, T. W. Crosse, Esq., occupied the chair, and Dr. Pitt, the Honorary Secretary, the vice-chair. The visitors being the medical Mayor of Norwich, and five other surgeons. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, the health of the President was proposed, which was received with enthusiasm. The Chairman having responded, other toasts followed, and the proceedings terminated at an early hour.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE fourteenth annual meeting of the Branch was held at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, on July 18th. The chair was taken by the retiring President, E. H. SIEVEKING, M.D., who afterwards resigned it to his successor, HENRY LEE, Esq. There were also present: S. S. Alford, Esq.; J. Armstrong, M.D. (Grave-send); J. W. Barnes, Esq.; W. Bartlett, Esq.; G. Bottomley, Esq. (Croydon); A. T. Brett, M.D. (Watford); T. Buzzard, M.D.; W. Camps, M.D.; C. T. Carter, Esq. (Hadley); R. Dunn, Esq.; S. Gibbon, M.D.; E. Haward, M.D.; Charles Hawkins, Esq.; C. Heath, Esq.; A. Henry, M.D.; Graily Hewitt, M.D.; R. G. Hill, M.D.; T. Hunt, Esq.; G. A. Ibbetson, Esq.; A. O. B. Jones, Esq. (Epsom); J. C. Langmore, M.B.; T. Langston, Esq.; A. Leared, M.D.; C. F. J. Lord, Esq. (Hampstead); W. O. Markham, M.D.; W. G. Marshall, Esq. (Colney Hatch); W. Martin, Esq. (Hammersmith); H. Maudsley, M.D.; C. H. Moore, Esq.; J. R. O'Brien, M.D. (Brompton); J. H. Paul, M.D. (Camberwell); T. Pollock, M.D.; J. Probert, Esq.; E. Ray, M.D. (Dulwich); T. L. Read, Esq. (Kensington); J. D. Rendle, M.D. (Brixton); B. W. Richardson, M.D.; C. H. F. Routh, M.D.; J. Seaton, M.D. (Sunbury); E. Sercombe, Esq.; F. Sibson, M.D.; T. Heckstall Smith, Esq. (St. Mary's Cray); A. P. Stewart, M.D.; E. H. Vinen, M.D.; G. Webster, M.D. (Dulwich). The General Secretary of the Association, T. Watkin Williams, Esq., was also present as a visitor.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

New Members. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Association and Branch: W. Thiselton Dyer, M.D., Berkeley Street; R. Gardiner Hill, L.R.C.P.Ed., Brompton; Timothy Pollock, M.D., Hatton Garden; Thomas L. Read, Esq., Kensington; and David W. Roberts, M.D., Manchester Street. As members of the Branch were elected: G. W. Callender, Esq., Queen Anne Street, and J. Hall Davis, M.D., Harley Street.

Report of Council. Dr. HENRY, one of the Honorary Secretaries, read the following report.

"The Council of the Metropolitan Counties Branch, in presenting the fourteenth Annual Report, are gratified in being able to congratulate the members on the increasing prosperity of the Society. At the last annual meeting, the number of members was 217. Since that date, nine members have resigned; one (Mr. Toynbee) has died; and 37 new members have been elected, making the present number of members 244.

"The Council are sure that the members of the Branch will share in the regret with which they heard, a few days ago, of the death of Mr. Toynbee. Mr. Toynbee was one of the oldest members of the Branch; and, on its organisation in 1853, was elected Treasurer. To this office he was annually appointed until 1859, when he resigned. The valuable services of Mr. Toynbee, as Treasurer of the Medical Benevolent Fund of the Association, and the liberal support which he rendered that fund, are well known to the profession, and will not soon be forgotten.

"In pursuance of resolutions passed at the last annual meeting of the Branch, and of a new law founded thereon, three ordinary meetings have been holden during the present year for the discussion of subjects connected with sanitary science and with the social and political interests of the profession. At the first of these meetings, on January 26th, Dr. Druitt read a very valuable paper on Reform in Sanitary Laws. The second meeting, which was summoned for March 23rd, but was adjourned to April 6th, was occupied with a discussion on a report of the Council of the Branch on the same subject. At the third meeting, which was held on May 25th. Dr. Richardson gave an able exposition of the difficulties attending the enforcement by law of Public Vaccination. The reading of the paper was on each occasion followed by a well sustained discussion.

"Your Council consider that the thanks of the Branch are eminently due to Drs. Druitt and Richardson for the readiness with which they agreed to furnish papers, and for the able and interesting communications which they brought forward. Your Council consider that the attempt to hold ordinary meetings of the Branch has so far proved satisfactory and encouraging; but they would suggest to the successors to consider whether a larger attendance of members would not be ensured by holding their meetings at some hour in the afternoon instead of in the evening.

"The subject of amendment of the sanitary laws, which was introduced by Dr. Druitt at the first ordinary meeting, has occupied much of the attention of the Council and of the Committee on Parliamentary Bills. On the reading of Dr. Druitt's paper, a resolution was passed by the Branch, desiring the Council to take the matter into consideration. In accordance with this resolution, the Council examined the subject with great care; and, with the aid of the Parliamentary Bills Committee, and of Dr. Burdon Sander-son, (to whom, though not of their body, they are indebted for much valuable assistance) they presented to the ordinary meeting, on March 23rd, a

series of recommendations for amendments in the Sanitary Laws, which, with some modifications, were adopted at the adjourned meeting on April 6th. As the proceedings of the meetings have been fully reported in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, it is unnecessary for your Council to enter into any further details. The members of the Branch will have perceived that the main defects in our present code of sanitary legislation have appeared to be, first, the multiplicity of sanitary acts, often containing provisions contradictory of each other; and, second, the absence of provisions for the effectual carrying out of sanitary measures. A Bill for the Amendment of the Sanitary Acts has been recently introduced into Parliament, and the members will probably hear from the Committee on Parliamentary Bills, an opinion as to the extent to which those provisions which the Branch considers essential are likely to be carried out.

"The initiative in the cause of sanitary reform, taken by this Branch, has, your Council have much pleasure in observing, been followed up by the Committee of Council, and by several other branches of the Parent Association.

"Although the state of the Army and Navy Medical Services has not been brought under the direct notice of the Branch during the past year, your Council feel it their duty to refer again to the subject. As the members of the Branch are aware, a Commission appointed by the Lords of the Admiralty, the Secretary of State for War, and his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, together with two representatives appointed by the Colleges of Physicians and of Surgeons, has inquired into the claims of the medical officers of the army and navy, and has presented a report embodying recommendations for improvements in the pay and position of those meritorious public servants. Your Council have reason to expect that these recommendations will be carried into effect, and they feel persuaded that, if this be done, the public service will once more be sought by the young and well qualified members of the profession, instead of being avoided, as has of late been lamentably evident, especially in the navy. Your Council cannot leave this subject without alluding, with feelings of the deepest gratification, to the appointment, by the College of Physicians, of their colleague, Dr. Markham, as a member of the Commission, inasmuch as he may be fairly considered to have been the exponent of the views, not only of the learned body which nominated him, but also of the Association, and of this Branch; whose expressed opinions, the Council feel assured, he most ably and efficiently advocated in his place as a member of the Commission.

"Your Council have noticed with deep interest the present movement to improve the condition of the sick pauper in the Metropolitan Workhouses; and they venture to hope that the result will be a marked amelioration in the condition of those important institutions, and an elevation in the position of the medical officers in whose charge they are placed.

"Your Council would recommend the Branch to petition the legislature for a removal of the liability of public hospitals to be rated by parishes; inasmuch as these institutions, supported by voluntary contributions, and distributing annually gratuitous medical relief to an enormous amount, operate directly in reducing the rates not only of the parishes in which they are situated, but also of many surrounding parishes. Viewed in this light, it seems to your Council as unjust to tax the public hospitals for the support of the poor, as it would be to tax the work-house infirmaries themselves.

"A highly respected member of the Branch, Dr. Armstrong, of Gravesend, having been lately subjected to the annoyance of a legal action on a groundless charge of malapraxis, the members present at the ordinary meeting on May 25th, unanimously passed a resolution expressing their sympathy and their undiminished confidence in his professional character. Your Council are assured that those who were not present on that occasion accept the opinions then expressed, as their own. A letter has been received by the secretary from Dr. Armstrong, expressing, for himself and his son, their warm thanks for the resolutions.

"The report of the Committee on Parliamentary Bills will be presented by Dr. Gibbon, who has, as hitherto, ably and zealously discharged the duties of Secretary.

"Your Council have much pleasure in presenting the financial report for the year; from which it will be seen that the monetary affairs of the Branch are in a satisfactory condition."

Mr. BOTTOMLEY moved, and Dr. SEATON seconded—"That the Report of Council now read be received, adopted, and published in the JOURNAL."

Dr. GIBBON objected to the paragraph which referred to the rating of hospitals. He thought that hospitals ought to be subjected to rates, and that the Branch ought not to interfere to prevent this. He moved as an amendment the omission of the paragraph in question.

Mr. LORD seconded the amendment; which, after some remarks from Dr. O'Bryen, Dr. Camps, Dr. Stewart, Mr. Martin, Mr. Heath, and Dr. Buzzard, was put to the vote and lost; 9 voting for and 11 against it.

The motion for the adoption of the Report was then carried.

Report of the Committee on Parliamentary Bills. Dr. GIBBON, Secretary to the Committee, read the following Report.

"The Committee on Parliamentary Bills, in presenting their third Annual Report, have to regret that, in consequence of the protracted debates on the Reform Bills, little progress has been made during the present session with matters that more immediately affect the interests of the medical profession.

"Early in February, the Council of the Branch deemed it desirable to agitate for an amendment, which is much needed, in sanitary legislation; it therefore referred the three following resolutions to your Committee.

"1. That it be referred to the Committee on Parliamentary Bills to consider the best mode in which a consolidation of the sanitary laws may be obtained.

"2. That the Parliamentary Committee be requested to consider and indicate what amendments, if any, it would be advisable to introduce into the existing sanitary legislation.

"3. That it is highly desirable that a Ministry of Health, or some central authority, be created, in order to serve as a court of control and appeal in all matters relating to the public health."

"Your Committee, after referring these important matters to a subcommittee, returned the following recommendations to the Council.

"1. That a speedy and inexpensive appeal should be provided from the decisions of local authorities; and that the body best fitted for a Court of Appeal is the Health Department of the Privy Council, with power to carry out their judgments.

"2. That the appointment of medical officers of health and of inspectors of nuisances should be made, as in the metropolis, compulsory, instead of permissive and dismissal.

"3. That the appointment of medical officers of health should be subject to the approval of the Health Department of the Privy Council.

"4. That a return should be yearly presented to Parliament of the names of the medical officers of health and inspectors of nuisances throughout the country, and salaries paid to them.

"5. That, in counties, the appointment of medical officers of health should be vested in the justices; and that they should be paid out of the county rate.

"6. That the provision of local refuges for those labouring under contagious diseases should be rendered compulsory on unions and parishes.

"7. That local authorities should be required to provide carriages for the removal of such persons, and means for disinfecting their dwellings, wearing apparel, etc."

"These the Committee believe to be some of the chief sanitary wants of the day, and the Committee hope to see them embodied in future Sanitary Acts. Indeed, a Bill to amend the Law relating to the Public Health, introduced into the House of Commons by the Right Hon. H. A. Bruce, June 6th, 1866, embodies two or three of them; and probably, if the profession exert its influence with Parliament, the other and more important provisions may be incorporated in this very measure.

"In the early part of the session, a Bill was introduced by Mr. Bruce, 'to consolidate and amend the statutes relating to Vaccination in England'. Inasmuch as the vaccination law had hitherto not fulfilled the just expectations of either the profession or the public, your Committee gave much attention and consideration to the provisions of this Bill. The conclusion at which they arrived after consulting several experienced vaccinators, was that an Act, to be thoroughly carried out in a matter like compulsory vaccination, must be simple in its provisions, so as to entail as little trouble as possible upon parents and vaccinators; and that the vaccinator should be properly paid for his time, skill, and labour. In order to carry out the first object, your Committee resolved to recommend Mr. Bruce, and the Select Committee to whom the Bill was referred, to abandon the attempt, futile as it has hitherto proved to be, of forming a complete register of all children successfully vaccinated. This register, which entails considerable trouble and expense, even if it were possible to render it complete, would, in the opinion of the Committee, be of little or no practical utility. Certainly, as yet, it has never been of the slightest use to any one. If this were given up, it would, by abating trouble and annoyance to vaccinator and parent, directly tend to stimulate vaccination; and the other provisions, especially that relating to the remuneration of the public vaccinator, could be made more effective. It was resolved, secondly, to endeavour to get the minimum fees for vaccination increased from 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. respectively, and to get a fee allowed for all infants and children vaccinated in the workhouses.

"Your Committee are happy to be able to report that Mr. Bruce and the Select Committee have adopted the last two resolutions, except that the additional shilling per case is contingent on the Privy Council's approval of the quantity and quality of the vaccination.

"The Select Committee have retained the troublesome, and, as your Committee believe, useless scheme of forming a Register of Vaccination; but there are grounds for believing that this scheme will either be much simplified or withdrawn altogether in the subsequent stages of the Bill.

"The thanks of this Committee, as well as those

of the profession at large, are due to Mr. Richard Griffin, Chairman of the Poor-law Medical Reform Association, for calling the attention of members of the House of Commons to this Vaccination Bill, and thereby getting it referred to a Select Committee. The provisions, as amended by the Select Committee, are not altogether satisfactory in a professional point of view. It is quite just that the additional shilling that is to be awarded as a gratuity for each case by the Privy Council should be paid out of the Consolidated Fund. As to its taking the form of a gratuity, there may be objections; and your Committee confess they would rather that it were given as remuneration for work and services rendered; and that the whole, rather than part of the fee, should be given, subject to the certificate of a competent medical inspector.

"As the new Ministry have expressed their intention to proceed with this as well as the Public Health Bill during the present session, your Committee will watch their progress through Parliament, and endeavour to get these amendments made—amendments which they believe will tend to make the respective Bills, should they pass, more effective.*

"The Committee have also from time to time considered the influence of the following Bills on the profession. They have, in some instances, suggested amendments and alterations therein where it appeared to them to be desirable.

"The Cattle-Plague Bills (two) to check the spread of the cattle-plague in Great Britain.

"The Pensions Bill, to amend the law relating to the granting of pensions and superannuation allowance to persons holding offices connected with the administration of justice, and laws relating to lunacy in England.

"A Bill to amend Remedial Measures and Diseases Prevention Act (1860).

"A Bill to provide for superannuation allowances to officers of vestries and district boards within the area of the Metropolitan Local Management Act.

"Labouring Classes' Dwellings Bill, to enable the Public Works Town Commissioners to make advances towards the erection of dwellings for the labouring classes in populous places.

"A Bill to provide better dwellings for artisans and labourers.

"An amended Contagious Diseases Bill was brought into the House of Commons by Lord Clarence Paget, which, in respect of professional interest, was an improvement on the former one. Instead of making use of the unpaid services of the honorary medical officers of certain hospitals, the Government propose to properly appoint and remunerate surgeons to examine and attend the prostitutes at certain naval and military stations.

"Your Committee cannot close their report without alluding to the great want of medical representatives, or of gentlemen possessing an adequate knowledge of medical and sanitary science, in Parliament. Of the five members of the profession who offered themselves as candidates for seats in the House of Commons at the last general election, only two secured their election. Dr. Brady and Mr. Clement of Shrewsbury have most cordially and liberally supported the efforts of the Committee to improve legislation on medical subjects. The provision of the Reform Bill which allotted a member each to the Universities of Edinburgh and London was satisfactory to your Committee, as calculated indirectly to increase the representation of the profession in Parliament."

Dr. O'BRYEN moved, Mr. BARNES seconded, and it was unanimously resolved—

"That the Report of the Committee on Parliamentary Bills be received, adopted, and published in the JOURNAL.

"That the best thanks of the Branch be given to Dr. Gibbon and the members of the Committee; and that they be reappointed and requested to continue their services."

Officers and Council for 1866-67. The following officers and council were unanimously elected: *President*, Henry Lee, Esq.; *President-elect*, W. O. Markham, M.D.; *Vice-Presidents*, C. F. J. Lord, Esq.; E. H. Sieveking, M.D.; *Treasurer*, R. Dunn, Esq.; *Secretaries*, A. P. Stewart, M.D.; A. Henry, M.D.; *Other Members of Council*, A. T. Brett, M.D. (Watford); J. R. Cormack, M.D.; C. Drage, M.D. (Hatfield); J. R. Gibson, Esq.; C. H. Rogers Harrison, Esq.; Graily Hewitt, M.D.; A. Leared, M.D.; J. H. Paul, M.D. (Camberwell); J. Ridge, M.D.; J. Seaton, M.D. (Sunbury); F. Sibson, M.D., F.R.S.; G. Webster, M.D. (Dulwich).

Dr. SIEVEKING then vacated the chair, which was taken by Mr. LEE.

Vote of Thanks to the Retiring President. Mr. HECKSTALL SMITH moved, Mr. BOTTOMLEY seconded, and it was unanimously resolved—

"That the cordial thanks of the Branch be given to Dr. Sieveking, the retiring President, for his able and courteous conduct in the chair on all occasions; and also for his liberal hospitality towards the members of the Branch."

President's Address. The PRESIDENT then delivered an instructive address.

Dr. STEWART moved, Mr. MARTIN seconded, and it was unanimously resolved—

"That the cordial thanks of the Branch be given to Mr. Lee for his excellent address; and that he be requested to publish it in the JOURNAL."

Representatives in the General Council. The following gentlemen having been duly proposed and seconded, were elected to act, together with Dr. Stewart, as representatives of the Branch in the General Council: R. Dunn, Esq.; C. H. Rogers-Harrison, Esq.; J. Hutton, M.D.; A. Henry, M.D.; H. Lee, Esq.; C. F. J. Lord, Esq.; W. O. Markham, M.D.; J. H. Paul, M.D.; B. W. Richardson, M.D.; J. Seaton, M.D.; F. Sibson, M.D., F.R.S.; and E. H. Sieveking, M.D.

Medical Provident Society. On the motion of Dr. RICHARDSON, the following were elected Directors of the Medical Provident Society: C. F. J. Lord, Esq.; S. W. J. Merriman, M.D.; and T. Heckstall Smith, Esq.

Dinner. The meeting, which was the most successful that the Branch had ever held, was terminated by a dinner, at which forty-nine were present. The chair was occupied by the President, H. Lee, Esq., supported by the President-elect (Dr. Markham), Mr. Watkin Williams, Dr. Sieveking, etc.

DEPUTATION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

A Deputation from the Parliamentary Committee of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the Association had an interview with His Grace the Duke of Buckingham, the Lord President of the Privy Council, Tuesday, the 24th inst., on the subject of amendments in the Vaccination Bill and the Public Health Bill. The deputation consisted of C. F. J. Lord, Esq. (Vice-President); Dr. Brady, M.P.; E. Jenkins, Esq. (Barrister-at-Law); Dr. Markham; Dr. Ballard; Dr. Leared; Dr. J. Seaton; Dr. G. Webster; Dr. R.

* Since this Report was presented, the Vaccination Bill has been withdrawn.

W. Fowler; T. Heckstall Smith, Esq.; J. R. Gibson, Esq.; Charles Hawkins, Esq.; H. W. Rumsey, Esq. (Cheltenham); and Drs. Stewart and Gibbon.

It was urged upon His Grace that Vaccination might be greatly promoted, without further legislation, by the Poor-law Board advising the guardians to give a more adequate fee for the operation, and cancelling their standing order that prohibits the payment for vaccination within the workhouses.

Dr. BRADY recommended the Government, in framing any future Bill, to take counsel of the public vaccinators, who were practically acquainted with the subject.

Dr. STEWART submitted a memorial on the Public Health Bill, and explained the various resolutions on the amendment of sanitary law agreed to at a general meeting of the Branch in April last. He was supported by Mr. Lord and Mr. Rumsey. Dr. Robert Fowler mentioned the great assistance which the Poor-law medical officers could give towards the sanitary amelioration of the country.

HIS GRACE discussed the recommendations *seriatim*, expressed his pleasure at having received them, and said that he should always be glad to have the advice and assistance of the Committee.

Correspondence.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

LETTER FROM RICHARD GRIFFIN, Esq.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your giving insertion to the reply to the letter I addressed to the President of the Poor-law Board on July 9th.

“Poor-law Board, Whitehall, July 10th, 1866.

“Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Gathorne Hardy to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst., and to thank you for the papers forwarded with it. He regrets that, as he has scarcely entered upon the duties of his office, he is unable at present to make any appointment for an interview.

“Your obedient servant, “J. STEWART HARDY.”

In the House of Commons on July 17th, Mr. Hardy said—“I quite admit the present evil condition of the infirmaries throughout London. It is in the power of the Poor-law Board to take care that there is efficient and sufficient medical superintendence, and that the salaries of the medical officers should be fixed at a proper sum. It is also in the power of the Poor-law Board to take care that there is sufficient nursing. I trust that the House will allow me a little time now that I am wading through a vast mass of information; for I can assure hon. gentlemen that I am desirous to apply a remedy. I think the powers of the Poor-law Board have not been put in force; and I ought not to ask the House to legislate until I have tried them. In the next session of Parliament, I shall be prepared to state what course I may think proper to recommend in respect of any new legislation.”

From the foregoing statement of the President of the Poor-law Board, I think there can be little doubt he fully intends to place the Poor-law medical relief of this country in a more satisfactory state than it is at present; and I hope the time is not far distant when the Poor-law medical officers will be fairly remunerated for their services.

Allow me here to call attention to the Report of Dr. Edward Smith, Medical Officer to the Poor-law Board, which has only just been laid before Parliament. He says (page 62)—“It should not be impossible to arrive at an agreement amongst medical men as to the sum which should be regarded as fairly sufficient. If the

recommendation already made be effected; viz., that the guardians in all cases provide drugs, and in suitable cases a dispenser—would it not be satisfactory generally for the salary to be calculated at the rate of ten shillings per adult on the average maximum number of inmates in the workhouse at one time; two children, as defined by the Poor-law—viz., persons under 16—to be considered as an adult.” He also says “that extras for midwifery, etc., as allowed by the Poor-law Board, should be added; and the medical officers should sign lunacy certificates and receive the fees. This would require a considerable increase in the salaries of nearly all the medical officers, and particularly of those in the larger workhouses, and it would probably lead the guardians to appoint one or more resident medical officers to each workhouse, who would devote the whole time to the duties of the office.”

Should Mr. Gathorne Hardy, after a reasonable period, fail to name a time for me to present the petition of the meeting of July 5th, I will again communicate with him; but I think it hardly fair to press him now too much, considering the statement made by him in the House of Commons, “that he is wading through a vast mass of information”, but rather give him a little breathing time.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GRIFFIN.

12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, July 21st, 1866.

THE TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.

LETTER FROM CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON, Esq.

SIR,—Would not the meeting of the Association at Chester afford a convenient opportunity for a discussion on the best means of arresting the spread of cholera?

Eliminating all matters of medical treatment, there are many points which demand early and careful consideration. Among them are the following.

Ought cholera hospitals to be established? or should home treatment be adopted?

If cholera hospitals are required, should they be portions of existing institutions or separate buildings?

If cholera break out in a confined district, should the sick or the healthy be removed?

If cholera cases be admitted into a hospital or workhouse, should the same medical attendants, nurses, and appliances, be provided for them and the other inmates?

Can a room that for several years has been exclusively used as a fever-ward be safely occupied by cholera-patients?

Will the use of a room as a cholera-ward unfit it for the reception of fever cases afterwards?

These are only a few of many questions which might be very profitably discussed at a meeting of the Association.

I am, etc.,

CHR. JOHNSON, Local Secretary.

Lancaster, July 22nd, 1866.

LETTER FROM D. A. REID, M.D.

SIR,—At a time like the present, when cholera is breaking out in various parts of the world, and even touching our own shores, it behoves every one who has had any experience in the treatment of this dire malady to make it known to the profession. Let me ask you, therefore, to find space for the very few remarks I have to make on the subject.

In the years 1854 and 1855, when cholera was raging amongst the British and French troops before Sebastopol, I held the appointment of assistant-surgeon in Her Majesty's 90th Foot, and was consequently called upon to treat a very large number of cases of this disease. I regret that I have no tabulated statistics of the results of the various kinds of treatment. The life we led at that time was not conducive to the preparation of such

useful documents. But I have a vivid and ineffaceable recollection of the number of remedies employed, and of the great comparative success of large doses—ten to fifteen grains—of calomel and copious draughts of cold water. Smaller doses of calomel, combined with opium, astringents of various kinds, sulphuric acid, etc., appeared to have no effect whatever. It was too much the custom at that time to refuse *cold water*, although the patients invariably had a powerful craving for it—in fact, they could not in many cases be persuaded to swallow any other beverage. Believing this craving to be instinctive, and an outcry of Nature for something that the system actually required, I ordered water to be administered *ad libitum*; and the result was an immediate diminution in the mortality.

As I before mentioned, I have no statistics, and, therefore, cannot give the exact ratio of the improvement under this treatment; but I can safely say that fifty per cent. more cases recovered than when other plans were adopted.

This supports Dr. Johnson's eliminative theory. The calomel, being given in purgative doses, assisted in carrying off from the system the specific poison of the disease. If this poison is held in solution in the liquor sanguinis, it is easy to understand that large quantities of pure water taken into the stomach, and, becoming absorbed, would supply to the blood the fluid it had lost in the process of elimination, and prevent that thickening of the blood so forcibly described by Mr. Bottomley in your JOURNAL of the 14th instant. A pure fluid would be supplied in place of the poisoned one eliminated, and thus the healthy condition of the blood restored.

It seems to me most unreasonable to lock up the poison in the system by astringents or remedies checking the secretions or excretions, particularly when we know that the most certainly fatal cases of cholera are those in which there is suppression of these discharges. What we want is to relieve the system of the poison that is destroying it; and, from my own experience, I decidedly come to the conclusion that this is best done by purgatives (more particularly calomel) and cold water rinsing.

No doubt convalescence may be assisted by stimulants and strong beef-tea or other nourishing diet; though I do not believe the former are useful in treating the disease itself. Very likely Dr. Hassall's flour of meal may be found serviceable in country districts, where good beef cannot be procured at a short notice, or perhaps a weak broth made from this flour of meat might in some cases be used as a substitute for water as a drink.

I am, etc., DOUGLAS A. REID.

Pembroke, South Wales, July 1866.

P.S. I omitted to mention that an improvement in the symptoms generally took place after two ten-grain doses of calomel had been given, with an interval of an hour between. I then reduced the dose to five grains every two hours, discontinuing it when danger was over.

D. A. R.

LETTER FROM W. F. MORGAN, ESQ.

SIR,—As a postscript to my letter on the use of sulphuric acid in choleraic diarrhoea, which you were good enough to insert in the JOURNAL of last week, I would invite attention to a communication from Dr. MacCormac of Belfast, in the *Medical Times and Gazette* of this day, wherein he speaks highly of that medicine, not only as a curative but as a prophylactic measure, and gives a striking illustration of its efficacy in its latter bearing. We prescribe quinine on this principle in malarial districts; why may not the administration of sulphuric acid in cholera localities be followed by a similar result?

I do not under-rate any of those sanitary observances

which are, indeed, a *sine quâ non* in successfully grappling with cholera. These are the fundamental prophylactics. But I am strongly impressed with the belief that in sulphuric acid we have the best medicine yet discovered wherewith to meet it. I trust it will be fully and fairly tried in the impending visitation.

Due consideration being paid to the sanitary instructions laid down by the best authorities, let the acid be commenced as soon as looseness of the bowels sets in, premising, however, in certain cases, where good evidence exists of retained fæces or of undigested food as a source of irritation, a dose of castor-oil or rhubarb, with a few drops of laudanum. The formula stated in my previous letter is, I believe, as good as any; in urgent attacks, increasing the frequency rather than the strength of the dose. And let those in attendance on the sick, and those who in any other way are exposed to risk, take the acid as a prophylactic, according to Dr. MacCormac's suggestion.

Perfect rest is of the first importance in the earliest stage of choleraic diarrhoea. Many have been the victims to a neglect of that precaution. During a former epidemic in this city, a worthy and estimable member of our profession thus fell a sacrifice to his self-denying zeal in the cause of the poor. The Guardians, to their honour be it mentioned, erected a costly and appropriate monument over his remains. I am, etc.,

W. F. MORGAN.

Bristol, July 22nd, 1866.

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On July 19th, 1866, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Bingham, John Joseph, Staveley, Derbyshire
Harding, Peter, Shrewsbury
Mousley, George William, Atherstone, Warwickshire
Pattinson, Henry Beaumont, Heavitree, near Exeter

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

Batt, Charles D., St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Crowfoot, Edward Bowles, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Lee, Timothy Webb, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Sunderland, Edward, Guy's Hospital
Webb, John, Guy's Hospital

APPOINTMENTS.

*JACKSON, J. Hughlings, M.D., appointed additional Demonstrator of Pathology at the London Hospital.
SUTTON, Henry G., M.D., appointed additional Demonstrator of Pathology at the London Hospital.

ARMY.

AMBROSE, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon J., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 58th Foot, *vice* J. Carlow.
BURKE, Surgeon-Major A., 3rd Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon-Major, *vice* Staff-Surgeon E. Touch, M.D.
CARLOW, Assistant-Surgeon J., 58th Foot, to be Staff-Assistant-Surgeon, *vice* J. Ambrose, M.D.
CAY, Battalion-Surgeon C. V., M.D., Coldstream Guards, to be Surgeon-Major, having completed twenty years' full-pay service.
DE LISLE, Surgeon-Major R. F. V., M.D., Royal Artillery, to be Staff-Surgeon-Major, *vice* A. Guthrie, M.D.
GUTHRIE, Staff-Surgeon A., M.D., to be Surgeon Royal Artillery, *vice* Surgeon-Major R. F. V. De Lisle.
TOUCH, Staff-Surgeon E., M.D., to be Surgeon 3rd Foot, *vice* Surgeon-Major J. Burge.

ROYAL NAVY.

DUNCAN, David, M.D., Surgeon, to the *Basilisk*.
DYAS, Jacob A., Esq., Surgeon (additional), to the *Cambridge*.
FEGAN, Henry, M.D., Surgeon (additional), to the *Dauntless*.
FOREST, Edward P., Esq., Surgeon (additional), to the *Lion*.
SUTHERLAND, George W. J., Esq., Surgeon (additional), to the *Impregnable*.

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

DAVIES, J., M.D., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 26th Lancashire A.V.
DAWES, W., Esq., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 2nd Staffordshire R.V.

GOLDSMITH, G. P., Esq., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 1st Bedfordshire R.V.
 WILTON, J. P., Esq., to be Surgeon 1st Administrative Battalion Gloucestershire R.V.

BIRTHS.

ADAMS. On July 10th, at Greenstreet, near Sittingbourne, the wife of Henry Adams, L.R.C.P.Ed., of a daughter.
 CUPISS. On July 3rd, at Great Grimsby, the wife of F. P. Cupiss, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
 CURGENVEN. On July 23rd, at 11, Craven Hill Gardens, the wife of J. Brandon Curgenven, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
 HARRISON. On July 16th, at Walsall, the wife of A. J. Harrison, M.B., of a son.
 MACK. On July 11th, at St. Paul's Road, Islington, the wife of Robert Mack, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
 MARTYN. On July 20th, at Clifton, Bristol, the wife of *S. Martyn, M.D., of a son.
 PAGE. On July 19th, at Queen Street, Mayfair, the wife of W. E. Page, M.D., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

CLEMENGER, W. G. W., Esq., Surgeon-Major H.M. Indian Army, to Amelia Maria, eldest daughter of E. G. POWELL, Esq., of Coed-mawr, Carnarvon, at Llanbeblig, on July 19.
 HIND, Albert, Esq., Surgeon, Gravesend, to Minna A. M. R., youngest daughter of the late Captain William H. S. HADLEY, 68th Light Infantry, at St. Thomas's, Hyde, on July 18.
 JACKMAN, Thomas S. H., Esq., Surgeon, at Leintwardine, Herefordshire, to Sarah, eldest daughter of the late John TAYLOR, Esq., of Edgbaston, at Great Malvern, on July 18.
 *LEWIS, Thomas, M.D., Carmarthen, to Lucy Ann, second daughter of J. B. JEFFRIES, Esq., of the same place, on July 12.
 *WEAVER, Frederick P., M.D., of Frodsham, Cheshire, to Mary Berry, eldest daughter of Edward Abbott WRIGHT, Esq., of Oldham and Castle Park, Frodsham, on July 19.

DEATHS.

ANSELL, Thomas, M.D., of Bow, aged 67, on July 24.
 DOHERTY. On July 24th, at Pawlish, Elizabeth, wife of Hugh Doherty, M.D., of Dulwich.
 HAWKES, Thomas C., Esq., Surgeon, at Okehampton, aged 87, on July 16.
 LANGSHAW. On June 11th, at Ootacamund, India, aged 20, John, eldest son of *J. P. Langshaw, Esq., of Lancaster.
 MIDDLETON, W., Esq., Surgeon, at Leamington, aged 63, on July 4.
 PENNINGTON. On July 17th, at Liverpool, Jane, wife of *Thomas Pennington, Esq.
 PRESTON, Wm. C., Esq., Surgeon, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, on June 23.
 TURNBULL, George A., Esq., many years Superintending Surgeon Hyderabad Contingent, India, in Jersey, aged 80, on June 28.

PROFESSOR DUMREICHER has orders to prepare hospital room in Vienna for 10,000 sick.

STATUE OF BONNET. On the 1st inst., the bust of Amedée Bonnet, late of Lyons, was inaugurated at Ambérieu.

LONDON HOSPITAL. It has been decided to abandon any ceremony in opening the new Alexandra wing of this institution, on account of the outbreak of cholera.

DONATION. Among the list of contributions last week to the Bristol Royal Infirmary was one "From a lady who takes a deep interest in the welfare of the Bristol Infirmary, £1,000."

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. It appears that out of seventy-two candidates who lately presented themselves for the primary examinations in anatomy and physiology, on the 18th inst., twenty-seven failed. One candidate had an additional three months, having been discovered copying from a gentleman undergoing the written examination.

VACCINATION BILL. In the House of Lords, on Monday, Lord Shaftesbury made some remarks upon the recent alarming increase of small-pox, and inquired whether the Government intended to proceed with the Bill upon that subject which had been introduced into the other House.—The Duke of Buckingham said, in consequence of numerous objections, the Bill had been withdrawn; but the attention of the Government would be given to the subject during the recess.

M. JOBERT DE LAMBALLE is reported by the journals to be hopelessly insane.

VITRIOLIC SHOWERS. Dr. Angus Smith showed some years ago that the rain water of great coal-burning towns is very acrid, and that about a thousand tons of vitriol are showered down on Manchester every year.

THE CHOLERA is very severe at Berlin. Up to the 21st, there had been 637 cases.—On the 24th instant, *L'Union Médicale* writes—"For the last two days both the number of cases of cholera and their gravity have sensibly diminished."—The *France Médicale* says—"We regret to announce the reappearance of cholera in the capital. Some cases are reported in private houses; but it is unfortunately true that among the persons admitted lately at the Hôtel-Dieu, the Lariboisière, Beaujon, Necker, and St. Louis, there were some attacked by the disease." In Marseilles it has also appeared.

VETERINARY SURGEONS BILL. In the House of Commons, on Tuesday, Mr. Newdegate moved that the House go into committee on this Bill, the object of which was to prevent any person who has not obtained the diploma of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons from assuming the title of veterinary surgeon. He asked from the Government an assurance that nothing should be done during the recess.—Mr. Corry, who had intended to suggest the withdrawal of the Bill, said nothing would be done during the recess, and no charter would be granted to the Scotch or any other school to give diplomas. The representations made to the Government respecting the Bill were so conflicting that it was impossible for any one not conversant with the subject to form a decided opinion upon it.—Mr. McLaren regretted to hear the rash promise that nothing should be done during the recess, because a public spirited man had left £40,000 to establish a college for Scotland; and he characterised the Bill as one to "repeal the Union", inasmuch as it would fine and stigmatise as an impostor every man who practised as a veterinary surgeon in Scotland or Ireland, no matter what his qualifications, if he did not hold the diploma of the London College. The Bill was then withdrawn.

CHOLERA IN LONDON. In July 21st, the births registered in London and twelve other large towns of the United Kingdom were 4132; the deaths registered 3433. The annual rate of mortality was 29 per 1000 persons living. In London the births of 1008 boys and 1015 girls, in all 2023 children, were registered in the week. In the corresponding weeks of ten years, 1856-65, the average number was 1909. The deaths registered in London during the week exceed by 428 the estimated number. While epidemic cholera has been for months prevalent in several cities on the Continent, and in some cities has been extraordinarily fatal, London has hitherto remained free from its ravages. At the end of June the temperature was excessively high, and after that date cholera cases were noticed; their character was not at first grave, but in the first week of July, fourteen cases, in the second, 32 cases of cholera were registered, half of them at least of the epidemic type. In the week that ended on Saturday last 346 deaths from cholera were recorded. The mortality by the epidemic is much greater than it was in the corresponding week of 1854, but not so great as it was in the epidemic of 1849. Of the 346 fatal cases now recorded, 308 occurred in the east districts of the metropolis. Eleven deaths from cholera were registered in the west districts, six in the north, and twenty in the south. Only one death from the epidemic occurred in the central districts.

THE LOTHIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. The medical practitioners of the villages and country districts around Edinburgh, have resolved to form themselves into an Association for the protection of the interests of country doctors. At a meeting in Edinburgh, the chairman alluded to the difficulty experienced in getting accounts collected, owing to the shifting character of the working population. He suggested that medical men should, at the end of every half year, send in their bills for attendance upon the farm labourers and their families, to the employers, with the view of having the amount deducted from the servant's half yearly wages. He likewise suggested that in the case of those who removed from one parish to the other without settling their doctor's bills, notice should be sent to the doctors in the district in which they should settle, who ought then to refuse to attend such persons, unless under circumstances of pressing need.

CHOLERA. The report of Mr. Simon to the Privy Council on the public health contains an interesting chapter on the cholera. Believing thoroughly in the contagiousness of the disease, Mr. Simon says:—"The doctrine on this subject, which, in my opinion, deserves, in the present state of knowledge, to be accepted as practically certain—sufficiently certain, I mean, to be made the basis for precautionary measures—may be stated in the following propositions: That when cholera is epidemic in any place, persons who are suffering from the epidemic influence, though perhaps, with only the slightest degree of diarrhoea, may, if they migrate, be the means of conveying to other places an infection of indefinite severity; that the quality of infectiveness belongs particularly, if not exclusively, to the matters which the patient discharges, by purging and vomiting, from his intestinal canal; that these matters are comparatively non-infective at the moment when they are discharged, but subsequently, while undergoing decomposition, acquire their *maximum* of infective power; that choleraic discharges, if cast away without previous disinfection, impart their own infective quality to the excremental matters with which they mingle in drains or cesspools, or wherever else they flow or soak, and to the effluvia which those matters evolve; that if the cholera contagium, by leakage or soakage from drains, or cesspools, or otherwise, gets access, even in small quantity, to wells or other sources of drinking water, it infects in the most dangerous manner very large volumes of the fluid; that in the above described ways even a single patient with slight choleraic diarrhoea may exert a powerful infective influence on masses of population among whom, perhaps, his presence is unsuspected; that things, such as bedding and clothing, which have been imbued with choleraic discharges and not afterwards fully disinfected, may long retain their infectious properties, and be the means of exciting choleraic outbreaks wherever they are sent for washing or other purposes."

A GOOD HINT FROM GERMANY. The system called "Trink-halles has been imported from Germany into Paris, where, at the present moment, there are twenty-two in operation. The structure consists of a covered stall, constructed of wood, open in front; in fact, a covered *buvette*, or drinking counter. Only three kinds of drinks are allowed to be sold—eau-de-Seltz pure, and the same with currant syrup, or with syrup of Seville oranges. These drinks are charged respectively two and three sous a glass. The eau-de-Seltz is made by the society itself, and confined in copper cylinders, coated inside with tin, and these are carried round in carts several times a day to the Trink-halles, which are provided with fountains and

reservoirs of ice, through which the aerated water is made to pass by means of coiled pipes, thirty feet long, so that the water is always well iced. The syrups are kept in closed porcelain vessels, which are furnished with ingenious taps that give to each glass a fixed quantity of the syrup. Each Trink-halle is attended by two women, who wear simple uniform dresses; they receive two and a half francs a day (equal to two shillings), and have in addition the value of five glasses of the beverages allowed them daily. Trink-halles are furnished with tell-tale counters, which enable the inspectors to see how many glasses of the liquid have been sold during the day. The sale is said to amount in warm days to 10,000 and 12,000 glasses between the twenty-two Trink-halles, or, on an average 500 each, but on dull or cold days the demand is almost *nil*. Under the present arrangements the Trink-halles remain closed during the winter months, but it is said to be in contemplation to allow them to sell hot coffee and tea during cold weather. There is no doubt that, whether during summer heat or wintry blasts, the Trink-halle must prove a friend to temperance, and, consequently, a friend of the poor man.

METROPOLITAN POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION. The first general meeting of this Association was held on Monday last, in the Council-room of the Royal Medical Benevolent College in Soho Square, and was largely attended by members—workhouse and district medical officers in almost equal proportions, and representing nearly every part of the metropolis. Dr. Rogers, the President *pro tem.*, occupied the chair. Dr. Dudfield, the Honorary Secretary *pro tem.*, having read the minutes of the preliminary meeting and the names of the members, and stated the steps that had been taken in organising the Association, Dr. Rogers addressed the meeting at considerable length, setting forth the objects of the Association, as contained in the printed rules. He dwelt more particularly upon the necessity of making a great effort to better the condition of the sick poor, and to raise the status of the Poor-law medical officers. Considerations of pecuniary remuneration, though important, should be sunk in comparison to the former objects. They were engaged in the noblest work man could be engaged in: they were men of education, and devoted to their work. What, therefore, they should ask for, was increased means of doing their duty to the sick poor. The amount of their salary, which was admitted by Mr. Farnall, the Poor-law Inspector, to be quite inadequate, they would leave to the appreciation and justice of the public. The revelations which had been made respecting the treatment of the sick poor in workhouses had excited a strong public feeling upon this subject. The Poor-law medical officers were not responsible for that treatment; on the contrary, they did what they could to obtain more liberal treatment of the sick poor. He thought that one of their objects should be to get the medicines for the poor at the expense of the State. He was glad to find that this recommendation had the support of Mr. Farnall. The objects of the Association were: 1. To obtain for the sick poor chargeable to the State the advantages enjoyed by the sick poor in hospitals, etc.; 2. To obtain life-appointments for all Poor-law medical officers, and entire payment of salaries from the Consolidated Fund; 3. To provide a basis for consultation and united action; 4. To obtain an authoritative decision upon all disputed questions relating to duties and extra medical fees; 5. To obtain from the local authorities the provision of all medicines and appliances prescribed for the sick poor, and the employment and payment by the same

of qualified dispensers; 6. To address representations to the Poor-law Board by memorial and deputation; and, if need be, to petition the legislature in such cases and circumstances as may appear to render such action necessary. These objects, having been severally discussed at length, were agreed to, as well as a number of rules for the government of the Association; and a Council of twelve members was then appointed. Besides the ordinary members, there will be a second class of members, honorary in character, and consisting of "eminent physicians and surgeons, particularly those connected with public institutions." Portions of the Report of Mr. H. B. Farnall, C.B., the Metropolitan Poor-law Inspector, relating to the duties, etc., of the workhouse medical officers, having been read, together with his recommendations for the amelioration of their position, it was unanimously resolved: "That this meeting, representing the Poor-law medical officers of the metropolitan district, cannot separate without recording their deep sense of gratification, inspired by his generous appreciation of their position and services." A copy of the resolution was ordered to be sent to the metropolitan inspector. A vote of thanks to the Council of the Royal Medical Benevolent College for the use of their room terminated the proceedings, which had been marked throughout by a strong feeling of earnestness, moderation, and unanimity. The following gentlemen were appointed officers for the ensuing year. *President*: Dr. Joseph Rogers. *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. C. Andrews; C. M. Frost, Esq. *Treasurer*: F. Goodrich, Esq. *Honorary Secretary*: Dr. T. O. Duffield. *Other Members of the Council*: R. Bruce, Esq.; J. Clark, Esq.; Dr. T. Cotton; E. Goddard, Esq.; Dr. T. K. King; Dr. G. E. Nicholas; John Vinal, Esq.; with power to add to their number.—At a meeting of the Council of the Association held on July 24th, it was resolved unanimously: "That the Council of this Association, having taken into consideration the Report of Dr. E. Smith upon Workhouse Infirmarys, etc., desire at once, and without now entering into any detailed refutation of the various statements to which they shall subsequently refer at greater length, to reiterate their conviction that not less than one thousand feet of cubic space and eighty feet of floor-space should be allowed to each sick inmate of workhouse infirmary wards. They feel it proper to repel without delay the expressed insinuation of Dr. Smith, that the opinion of the medical officers on this subject, which was officially and urgently sought for by a printed document issued by the Poor-law Board, can be set aside as of no value, now that it proves to be contrary to that of Dr. Smith. The Council also express the pain and regret with which they have read many disparaging remarks of Dr. Smith in relation to their qualification, conduct, and position as medical officers. These they feel to be entirely undeserved, unjust, and ungenerous. The Council refer with confidence to the more just estimate formed by Mr. Farnall, who, as Poor-law inspector in the metropolis for several years, has had numerous opportunities of knowing the continuous efforts made by the medical officers to improve the condition of the sick poor, and faithfully to perform their duty." It was also determined that Dr. Rogers be requested to present a copy of the resolution to the President of the Poor-law Board.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL; Dr. GRIFFITH; Dr. MEAD; Mr. CHR. JOHNSON; Dr. F. G. BROWN; Mr. TRUSTAM; Dr. PHILIPSON; Mr. GRIFFITH; Mr. W. F. MORGAN; Mr. R. S. FOWLER; SIR JOHN FIFE; Mr. A. E. LLOYD; Mr. R. H. MEADE; Mr. W. ALLISON; Dr. S. MARTYN; Mr. A. HEWILL; Mr. J. J. EVANS; Dr. JAMES RUSSELL; Mr. W. PARKER; Dr. ARTHUR LEARD; Mr. HUGHES; and Mr. STONE.

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.

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.

THE Reports of the West-Somerset and Bath and Bristol Branches shall appear next week.

MR. TRUSTAM.—The notice in the JOURNAL about Mr. Webber was simply an extract from the Times.

THE ANNUAL MEETING: RAILWAY TICKETS.—Dr. Mead of Newmarket has addressed a letter to the Railway Companies in reference to the travelling of members of the Association to and from Chester; and has received answers from the Great Western, London and North-Western, and Midland, that these Companies will extend the return tickets from the 6th to the 11th of August inclusive.

S. N.—It was Dr. Taylor who set going the report that Dr. Warder was an eminent toxicologist at the School in Grosvenor Place. He was the very opposite of this, having completely failed as a Lecturer on Jurisprudence. Another incorrect assertion Dr. Taylor is reported to have made, viz., that Dr. Warder was one of the medical men who defended Palmer. He appears, on the contrary, to have taken views strongly opposed to Palmer.

STATISTICS OF CANCER.—Mr. Moore has the pleasure to acknowledge the return of "Registers for Cases of Cancer", from John Thompson, Esq., Bideford; J. S. Bartrum, Esq., Bath; and F. Hudson, Esq., Stockport.

THE ARMSTRONG FUND.—The Treasurer of the Gravesend and Milton Dispensary and Infirmary begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt from Thomas Hunt, Esq., of the sum of seven pounds, being the balance of subscriptions after defraying the expenses incurred by Messrs. Armstrong, in the case of Rudman v. Armstrong. Gravesend, July 25th, 1866.

THE RICHARDSON TESTIMONIAL.—SIR: The letter of "A Physician", in your impression of the 14th instant, well recounts the labours of that distinguished physiologist, Dr. B. W. Richardson, and points out equally well the claims he undoubtedly has upon both professional and public gratitude.

To dilate upon the observations of your correspondent, would be to dilute them; but I cannot avoid saying, I think, apart from the recent great and important discovery of local anaesthesia, the public as well as the profession owe much to Dr. Richardson for what he has done in furtherance of scientific sanitation throughout the country.

Most thoroughly approving the suggestion of a presentation to this true and zealous worker in the field of science, I do hope no time will be lost in carrying into effect the proposition referred to, and I also trust the movement will result in something that will be calculated to show our distinguished brother, in the most unmistakable manner, the true feelings of the profession towards him, and the sense entertained of his high scientific attainments.

Let, then, the good work be at once commenced; and your correspondent must pardon me for saying, I think no one could be selected better qualified to take the initiative in a project of this kind than himself.

This gentleman has only to give his consent to the publication of his name, and I feel assured that, with your valuable assistance, the best wishes of Dr. Richardson's admirers (and their name is legion) will not only be very fully but very speedily realised.

I am, etc.,
July 19th, 1866.

A MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR: The kindness which induced you to comply with my request, and give insertion to my letter signed "A Physician", has been followed by such a happy result, that I think we have both of us good reason to be satisfied. I never for one moment doubted the suggestion being received with the most hearty approbation; but, I must confess, that I was scarcely prepared for such an almost universal approval.

Many of the letters I have received upon the occasion (and I can scarcely tell you how numerous they have been), from almost all parts of the country, and from professional brethren with whom I have never before had the pleasure of corresponding, are so full of thanks to me for having, as they say, "anticipated their wishes", that I feel constrained, although somewhat reluctantly, thus publicly to announce myself as the initiator of the movement, and, at the same time, to acknowledge through the medium of your columns, the communications I have referred to, as it would be quite out of my power to reply to all, individually, who have addressed me on the subject.

With so strong a proof as I possess of the general desire of the profession to support the movement, I think it would be unwise to delay, for any length of time, the convening a meeting for the purpose of organising a system likely to facilitate the necessary proceedings and to make the success as great and as certain as possible. London must be, I imagine, the best place for the first meeting; and I beg to suggest that the rooms of the Medical Benevolent College in Soho Square, if they can be obtained, would be suitable for the purpose. In the meantime, I shall be happy to receive communications from any one favourable to the object we are wishing to promote.

I am, etc.,
Stafford, July 24th, 1866.

HENRY DAY, M.D.

SIR: Allow me to express the pleasure with which I read in your columns a letter from "A Physician", suggesting a testimonial to Dr. Richardson. I am sure that all who have been spared either the infliction or endurance of pain by means of the process which he has introduced, ought to be glad to avail themselves of such an opportunity of expressing their gratitude to him for this and also for his other valuable services to medical science.

I trust that I shall soon see a subscription-list announced, to which I shall have great pleasure in adding my name. Enclosing my card.

I am, etc., A SURGEON.

DIAGNOSIS OF SUSPECTED PREGNANCY.—SIR: I have an idea that the clinical thermometer may be advantageously employed in the diagnosis of suspected pregnancy.

We country practitioners might go on making experiments for years, without having a sufficient number of cases to enable us to arrive at any positive practical conclusion.

The opportunities enjoyed by pure obstetricians in large towns, would, however, enable them ere long to determine whether the above named instrument is of any value in such cases; and if the hint I have ventured to throw out prove the means of inducing some of my more fortunate brethren to make the needful experiments, perhaps it is not too much to ask if they would kindly record the results in your columns.

I am, etc., HUGH NORRIS.

South Petherton, Ilminster, July 12th, 1866.

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