

The New York Bureau of Vital Statistics, and several physicians of that city, are pointing out lessons to be learnt from the waste of life which has just occurred by cholera. Foremost among them is the value of fresh air. Dr. L. W. Lewis states that the best prevention of cholera is to keep the windows of your house open night and day. Dr. F. Hamilton, when the cholera broke out upon Blackwell's Island, kept the people out of doors all day, and the windows of their rooms open all night, and thus in five days checked the disease. Dr. O. Doremus says that "God's oxygen is one of the best antidotes to disease." But so great is the force of prejudice felt to be, that Dr. Harris, the registrar of vital statistics, congratulates even the sanitary inspectors upon "their faith in facts." In England, the general practice still is to shut all windows by sunset, and keep the entire house well corked against fresh air throughout the night.

The cholera is making terrible progress in Western America. In St. Louis, during twenty-four hours there were 119 deaths, and the people were fleeing from the city in panic.

Dr. T. J. Dyke, Medical Officer of Health, of Merthyr Tydfil, in his report to the Local Board of Health, says of the cholera:—"The epidemic cholera commenced on the 23rd of August. Cases of the most malignant character occurred almost simultaneously at Abercannaid, at Caedraw, in Merthyr, and at Cae Harris, Dowlais. The first-named place is two miles south-west of Merthyr; the last-named place two miles north-east. Abercannaid is about 500 feet above the sea, on the west bank of the river Taff. Cae Harris, 1100 feet above the sea, and no water course near. On the 24th of August cases equally malignant occurred in Quarry Row, Tramroad north, George Town, and Penyard Penydarran, places as you are aware, widely separate. No communication had taken place between any of the three first afflicted with each other, or with any other town or place in which cholera had been. But in the neighbourhood of the residence of each of the persons first attacked, I believe I shall, on a future occasion, be able to show that the cause which gave rise to the epidemics of typhus fever in 1864 and 1865, has given rise also to cholera in 1866; I mean putrefying human filth. From the 21st a very evident blue mist was seen in the valley. It is not to be supposed that this mist has anything to do in causing the disease, for it may be seen in these valleys whenever, after much rain, a high temperature and a still atmosphere follow; but it is in such a condition of air that vegetable and insect life most rapidly grow."

At Naples the cholera has spread extensively. One or two of the barracks have been visited by the epidemic. The heat has been intense; and here, as in all other places where it has raged, we can recognise the consequences of the violation of simple sanitary laws. Bad water, or a deficient supply; bad sewerage, or no sewerage; dirt in the streets and dirt on the person; unwholesome food, and that in abundance, all proceeding from individual carelessness or municipal neglect, have been all the summer inviting a visit from the cholera, and now we have it at the commencement of autumn. Even at this crisis, the filth and indecency which are apparent in the most frequented and best parts of Naples are frightful.

## Association Intelligence.

### COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

THE Committee of Council will meet at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on THURSDAY, the 4th day of October, 1866, at 3 o'clock P.M. *precisely*.

To receive the resignation of the Editor of the JOURNAL, and to devise what steps shall be taken relative thereto; and other very important business.

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, *General Secretary*.

13, Newhall Street, Birmingham, September 6th, 1866.

### WEST SOMERSET BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

AN ordinary meeting of the above Branch will be held at Clarke's Castle Hotel, Taunton, on Wednesday, September 26th. Dinner at 5 o'clock; after which, papers or cases will be communicated.

Gentlemen intending to be present at the dinner, or to read papers after, are requested to give notice to the Honorary Secretary.

W. M. KELLY, M.D., *Hon. Secretary*.

Taunton, September 4th, 1866.

### SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT MEDICAL MEETINGS.

THE next meeting of this Branch will be held at the Pavilion Hotel, Folkestone, on Thursday, September 27th, at 3 P.M.

Members desiring to bring forward papers, should communicate with the Honorary Secretary without delay.

R. L. BOWLES, L.R.C.P., *Honorary Secretary*.

Folkestone, September 4th, 1866.

### SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE next meeting is appointed to be held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, on Friday, Sept. 30th, at 3.30 P.M. Dr. Burns will take the chair.

Dinner will be provided at the Bull Hotel, Rochester, at 5.30 P.M.

Paper promised (if there be time for the reading): On the acquired Blood-relationship of the Wife to her Husband.

FREDERICK J. BROWN, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

Rochester, September 10th, 1866.

### SHROPSHIRE ETHICAL BRANCH.

THE next annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Raven Hotel, Shrewsbury, on Monday, October 1st, at 1 P.M. Dinner at 3 P.M. W. Slyman, President, in the chair.

Members intending to read papers, or to be present at the dinner, are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretaries without delay.

JUKES STYBAF, L.K.Q.C.P. } *Hon.*  
EDWIN ANDREW, M.D. } *Secs.*

Shrewsbury, September 11th, 1866.

## HASTINGS MEMORIAL FUND.

At the recent meeting of the British Medical Association, held at Chester, it was resolved to raise a Special Fund, to be called, in memory of Sir Charles Hastings, "The Hastings Memorial Fund", the produce of which shall be devoted to provide, and supplement with a sum of money, the "Hastings Medal", which shall be awarded for distinguished labours in medical science to any member of the profession in any country.

## FIRST LIST OF DONATIONS.

Dr. Waters, <i>President</i> ...	£	3	s.	0	Spencer Wells, Esq. . . . .	£	5	s.	0
Professor Stokes, M.D. 10	0	0	0	Dr. Lawford, . . . . .	1	1	0		
H. D. Carden, Esq. . . . .	5	5	0	G. P. Hodgson, Esq. . . .	0	5	0		
Dr. H. Day . . . . .	3	3	0	John Drever, Esq. . . . .	0	5	0		
Dr. J. Edwards . . . . .	3	3	0	Dr. Ryott . . . . .	0	10	6		
Ellis Jones, Esq. . . . .	3	3	0	W. F. Lyde, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0		
Dr. Sibson . . . . .	3	3	0	Dr. Kelly . . . . .	0	10	6		
T. H. Smith, Esq. . . . .	3	3	0	W. J. Square, Esq. . . . .	0	13	0		
Thomas Turner, Esq. . . .	3	3	0	Dr. Thomson, R.N. . . .	1	1	0		
I. Baker Brown, Esq. . . .	2	2	0	Thomas Martin, Esq. . .	1	1	0		
M. H. Clayton, Esq. . . .	2	2	0	Dr. Wades . . . . .	0	5	0		
T. T. Griffith, Esq. . . . .	2	2	0	H. L. Prichard, Esq. . .	1	1	0		
W. Hey, Esq. . . . .	2	2	0	T. H. Bartleet, Esq. . . .	0	10	6		
Dr. S. J. Jeaffreson . . . .	2	2	0	Prof. Humphry, M.D. . .	1	1	0		
George Southam, Esq. . . .	2	2	0	Dr. Black . . . . .	1	1	0		
Dr. Wilkinson . . . . .	2	2	0	Dr. Scowcroft . . . . .	0	10	6		
J. S. Bartrum, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0	Thomas Owen, Esq. . . .	0	5	0		
George Bottomley, Esq. . . .	1	1	0	Thomas Lingen, Esq. . .	1	1	0		
W. J. Church, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0	E. T. Griffith, Esq. . . .	0	5	0		
D. Clark, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0	J. G. Wales, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0		
Dr. Falconer . . . . .	1	1	0	C. Vyse, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0		
Samuel Hey, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0	Jos. Blackshaw, Esq. . .	0	5	0		
Dr. Hooper . . . . .	1	1	0	W. W. Thomas, Esq. . . .	0	10	6		
J. R. Humphreys, Esq. . . .	1	1	0	Dr. Sieveking . . . . .	1	1	0		
J. Hutchinson, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0	Dr. Walker . . . . .	1	1	0		
T. Eytton Jones, Esq. . . .	1	1	0	Professor Syme . . . . .	1	1	0		
J. Z. Laurence, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0	J. L. Parker, Esq. . . . .	0	5	0		
Charles Lingen, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0	G. E. Stanger, Esq. . . .	0	10	6		
Dr. W. O. Markham . . . .	1	1	0	J. H. Clouting, Esq. . . .	0	10	6		
T. Mellor, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0	W. Bodington, Esq. . . .	0	10	6		
Charles H. Moore, Esq. . . .	1	1	0	Dr. Barnes . . . . .	2	2	0		
Dr. E. Morris . . . . .	1	1	0	Dr. Smallman . . . . .	0	5	0		
Dr. Paget . . . . .	1	1	0	E. Parker, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6		
Dr. Phillips . . . . .	1	1	0	Dr. Hall . . . . .	1	1	0		
Dr. B. W. Richardson . . . .	1	1	0	R. Jefferson, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6		
Dr. H. Simpson . . . . .	1	1	0	J. Hepworth, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0		
Dr. Skinner . . . . .	1	1	0	T. H. Graham, Esq. . . .	0	5	0		
Dr. Stewart . . . . .	1	1	0	W. C. West, Esq. . . . .	2	2	0		
G. Turner, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0	W. H. Manifold, Esq. . .	1	1	0		
Dr. Tournour . . . . .	1	1	0	Dr. T. Thomson . . . . .	2	2	0		
Dr. Edward Williams . . . .	1	1	0	G. E. Horton, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0		
T. W. Williams, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0	George Critchett, Esq. . .	1	1	0		
C. L. Allwork, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6	Dr. Prichard . . . . .	1	1	0		
C. S. Barter, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6	Prof. Christison, M.D. . .	1	1	0		
Dr. Bott . . . . .	0	10	6	Dr. Croker . . . . .	1	1	0		
John Burrows, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6	— Forsyth, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0		
Dr. J. G. Davey . . . . .	0	10	6	Dr. Merriman . . . . .	0	10	6		
John Firth, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6	Dr. Eddowes . . . . .	0	10	6		
Dr. W. Fuller . . . . .	0	10	6	Dr. Hawkins . . . . .	0	10	6		
J. G. Hardy, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6	Miss Garlike (per W. C.					
Dr. A. Henry . . . . .	0	10	6	West, Esq.) . . . . .	2	2	0		
James Rhodes, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6	H. H. Parry, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0		
A. B. Steele, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6	Prof. MacLagan, M.D. . .	1	1	0		
H. B. Steele, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6	R. Wiseman, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6		
Thomas Webster, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6	Dr. Ward . . . . .	0	10	6		
Henry Whitfield, Esq. . . .	0	10	6	R. Shipman, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6		
Dr. Birkbeck Nevins . . . .	0	10	6	C. Richardson, Esq. . . .	0	5	0		
J. D. Weaver, Esq. . . . .	0	5	0	J. B. Collins, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0		
Dr. Rutherford . . . . .	0	5	0	Dr. Wildash . . . . .	0	10	6		
Dr. Watkins . . . . .	0	5	0	W. J. Clement, Esq., M.P. .	2	2	0		
Dr. J. Seaton . . . . .	0	5	0	Dr. C. Holman . . . . .	1	1	0		
Thomas Paget, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0	Dr. Jackson . . . . .	1	1	0		
T. P. Teale, Esq. . . . .	3	3	0	W. Prescott, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0		
T. P. Teale, jun., Esq. . . .	1	1	0	R. Flint, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0		
W. Dalton, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0	Dr. Billing . . . . .	1	1	0		
F. Bartleet, Esq. . . . .	2	2	0	R. Pitt, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6		
Dr. Jenkins . . . . .	0	10	6	Dr. Sandwith . . . . .	0	10	6		
Dr. Brett . . . . .	0	5	0	J. Renton, Esq. . . . .	0	5	0		
John Bush, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0	M. A. B. Corbin, Esq. . .	0	5	0		
Thomas Pope, Esq. . . . .	0	5	0	Sir Jas. Bardsley, M.D. . .	3	3	0		
G. Daglish, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6	H. C. Medcalf, Esq. . . .	0	10	6		
Dr. Parratt . . . . .	1	1	0	A. Leslie, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6		
Dr. Hughes . . . . .	1	1	0	Dr. George Budd . . . . .	2	2	0		
Dr. Carlyle . . . . .	0	10	6	Dr. Symson . . . . .	1	1	0		
Dr. Birch, . . . . .	1	1	0	R. T. Morris, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6		
R. Blaikie, Esq. . . . .	0	10	6	C. Johnson, Esq. . . . .	0	5	0		
James Hakes, Esq. . . . .	0	10	0	Dr. Hall . . . . .	0	5	0		
Dr. Hatton . . . . .	1	1	0	Dr. Harper . . . . .	0	5	0		
S. Watson, Esq. . . . .	0	5	0	J. Essex, Esq. . . . .	0	5	0		
J. Ellerton, Esq. . . . .	2	2	0	H. MacColl, Esq. . . . .	0	5	0		
Dr. Swaine . . . . .	1	1	0						

Gentlemen desirous of contributing, whether members of the Association or not, are requested to forward their donations to the Treasurer, Dr. R. W. FALCONER, Bath, or to the Secretary.

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, *General Secretary*.

13, Newhall Street, Birmingham, September 10th, 1866.

## Reports of Societies.

## OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH, 1866.

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

Five gentlemen were elected Fellows of the above Society.

*Specimens, etc.* Dr. MEADOWS showed an *Ecraseur* made for him by Messrs. Mayer and Metzler. It consisted of a single wire, tempered in a peculiar way, rendering it stronger than any wire-rope or chain he knew of. He also exhibited a good specimen of the so-called Cauliflower Excrescence, which he had removed by means of the single-wire *écraseur*.

*Hypertrophy of the Labium.* The patient, 27 years of age, about six weeks after her second confinement, three years since, experienced sudden pain and enlargement of the labia. Treatment was adopted, and in 1864 she was admitted into St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where drainage-tubes were passed through the mons veneris and left labium; but she left the hospital unrelieved. When seen by Dr. Meadows, the left labium was of the size of the fist, and the whole mons was much thickened, indurated, and brawny looking. On July 20th the entire labium was removed, together with an elliptical portion of the mons. The operation was successful, and left the parts on that side of their normal size.

Dr. NEAL exhibited two specimens of Singular Malformation, showing the influence of maternal impressions on the fœtus in utero in the lower animals, the cow and the mare.

Mr. SHERATON showed a Steel Fillet designed by him to supersede the forceps. It is constructed by combining a rotatory action with the fillet principle. The rotatory action is obtained by pressing upon transverse bars, by which the blades are formed into a loop of elliptical form, having a short transverse diameter of four inches and a quarter, and a long diameter of five and a half or six inches. Mr. Sheraton explained its application, and considered the flexibility and thinness of the blades as important, in allowing ready adaptation to the axis of the pelvis, and to the form of the head.

Dr. GRAILY HEWITT thought the instrument highly ingenious, and likely to be serviceable in some cases, particularly when the head was quite low down; but he believed it could not take the place of the forceps in those cases where the forceps is so particularly valuable, viz., when the head is not so low down, and where there is some degree of impaction.

## ON EXTREME SURGICAL TENDENCIES OF UTERINE PATHOLOGISTS; AND ON THE DIVISION OF THE CERVIX UTERI. BY E. J. TILT, M.D., M.R.C.P.

Dr. TILT deprecated the extreme surgical tendency that seemed to characterise the present epoch. He gave as a proof of this tendency the frequency with which operations have been discussed at Medical Societies, the unnecessary multiplication of surgical instruments, and the warmth with which their inven-

rate doses, perseveringly given, we should hesitate before hazarding larger ones; the disease we are combating may possibly be cured, but the patient's health suffer. I do not believe we fairly watch the results of long courses of arsenic. When we have been puzzled by the obstinacy of a disease, we obtain now and again a cure by employing the drug heroically. The object gained, our observation usually ceases; but did we continue to scan the subsequent progress of our patient, we should sometimes have reason to regret the mode by which the cure has been obtained.

I do not for a moment wish to imply dogmatically that Dr. Andrew is at fault in the treatment of his patient. The history of the case, no doubt, fully commends it; but only to point out that the case should not be taken as a guide in reference to the treatment of lupus in general; for the exhibition of arsenic alone or as the chief agent in the cure is scarcely based upon sound pathology, and it is not the quickest mode of cure. In lupus, there is a proliferation of the cell-elements of the derma—a peculiarity of cell-growth—especially at the extending edge of lupus patch, and we must destroy this fairly and freely. The use of caustics—arsenical, ioduretted, mercurial, silver, or carbolic acid, according to circumstances—is the most important point of all in the management of lupus. Caustics require great care in their use. If they set up too much irritation, the disease is very likely to appear in contiguous parts; but the use of general measures should be made subservient to them.

I trust that Dr. Andrew's case will not tend to make us lose sight of the value of caustics in lupus, or induce any of us to begin physicking our refractory cases with large doses of Fowler's solution. The happy medium, a moderate course, is no doubt the correct use of both local and general means.

I am, etc., TILBURY FOX.

43, Sackville Street, Piccadilly, W., Sept. 10th, 1866.

## USE OF STIMULANTS IN CHOLERA.

LETTER FROM ANDREW CLARK, M.D.

SIR,—I beg permission to offer a few words of explanation concerning certain remarks on cholera which you have transferred from the columns of a daily paper as having been made by me at the Mansion House.

One might infer from these remarks that I had discussed, or animadverted upon, the treatment of cholera pursued by my medical brethren in the East of London. But it was quite otherwise. To have done so, in such a place, would have been, in my opinion, an unpardonable impertinence, and was, I assure you, very far from my thoughts.

Abuses in the distribution of stimulants by lay visitors having been brought to my notice in various ways, I took occasion, in my place at the Mansion House, to tell local committees that an extra consumption of stimulants afforded no protection from cholera; to show them, by statistical returns, that the most numerous and fatal cases occurred after excessive indulgences of this kind; and to urge them to administer their supplies of wine or spirits exclusively through the medium of their medical advisers. My remarks had no reference to the treatment of cholera by these agents.

In the greater number of cases my advice has been followed; and I find from personal inquiry that the abuses referred to have in great measure ceased to exist.

I am, etc.,

ANDREW CLARK.

September 10th, 1866.

# Medical News.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.** On September 6th, 1866, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Bloxam, John Astley, Bedford Place, Russell Square  
Gronow, Owen Tudor, Carlton Villas, Slough  
Leah, Thomas, Lock Hospital, Harrow Road  
Robinson, Robert, Avenham Place, Preston

## APPOINTMENTS.

CROWTHER, Edward L., Esq., appointed Resident Surgeon to the Birmingham Lying-in Hospital.

\*LAURENCE, J. Zachariah, M.B., appointed Ophthalmic Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.

\*MACKENZIE, Morell, M.D., appointed Assistant-Physician to the London Hospital.

NUNN, John R., Esq., appointed Surgeon to Warwick County Gaol, vice H. Blenkinsop, Esq.

SYKES, Walter J., M.B., appointed House-Surgeon to the Clayton Hospital and Wakefield General Dispensary.

**INDIAN ARMY.** To be Assistant-Surgeons, Bengal Army:—

BIRCH, E. A.  
CAMERON, L., M.D.  
EADES, L. E.  
GAGE, J. T., M.D.  
GALLOWAY, W. W., M.B.  
GRIFFITH, G.

KEEGAN, D. F., M.D.  
MACKENZIE, S. C., M.D.  
PALMER, D. P., M.D.  
RAYE, D. O'Connell, M.D.  
WARBURTON, W. P., M.B.

To be Assistant-Surgeons, Madras Army:—

BATEMAN, D. F.  
CULLINAM, C. M.  
M'PHERSON, J. M.D.  
M'VITTIE, C. E.

MAYER, H. C.  
NANNY, L. C.  
RICKARD, F. M.  
SHANNON, P. J., M.D.

To be Assistant-Surgeons, Bombay Army:—

BOWMAN, R.  
CODY, T.  
GRAY, W.  
HOLMESTED, T.  
HUGHES, D. E., M.D.

LAING, A., M.D.  
MILLER, A. H.  
RABY, J.  
VESEY, R. M.

DR. S. D. LEES, of Ashton-under-Lyne, has been appointed a magistrate for the county of Lancashire.

**GLASGOW MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.** Dr. Allen Thomson has been elected president, and Dr. Robert Paterson and Dr. John Coats vice-presidents, of the Glasgow Medico-Chirurgical Society.

**SCURVY IN INDIA.** The heat at Mooltan is described as intense. Scurvy has broken out among the 35th Regiment stationed there, and as many as 350 of the men have been laid up with the disease.

**CENTENARY OF JOHN DALTON'S BIRTH.** Wednesday week, being the centenary of the birth of John Dalton, the chemist (the discoverer of the atomic theory), was celebrated in Carlisle by a public dinner. Dr. Lonsdale, of Rose Hill, Carlisle, presided.

**SALMON.** Mr. E. Buckland condemns the discouragement of salmon by the pollution of rivers; and says that the Trent and other rivers now unproductive can be so far cultivated as to bring salmon down to sixpence or sevenpence a pound.

**THE HEALTH OF LIVERPOOL.** At a late meeting of the Liverpool Health Committee, Dr. Trench reported a still further increase in the mortality of the town. The deaths from cholera had been 225 during the week, and the total rate per week was 282 in excess of the average of the last ten years.

**BRITISH ASSOCIATION.** Dr. Hooker, in his lecture upon "Insular Floras", related the results of his explorations in the islands of the southern seas, including Madeira, St. Helena, the Azores, and Kirk Williams Island. The flora of Madeira was like that of Europe, except that the plants grew larger, parsley being there produced on trees. On Desolation Island he found only 150 plants, and he never thought of that place without unpleasant associations of cabbage and penguin soup.

THE OUTHWAITE CONVALESCENT FUND is to be raised to commemorate the services rendered by Dr. Outhwaite to the Bradford Infirmary.

THE CASE OF CÆSAREAN SECTION operated on by Dr. Greenhalgh has proved fatal. The infant is doing well.

A TESTIMONIAL has been presented to Dr. Moore on his vacating the office of Deputy-Superintendent of the Lancaster County Lunatic Asylum by the officers and servants.

THE TESTIMONIAL TO MR. GRIFFIN. The *Illustrated London News* of this day contains an engraving of the testimonial presented to Mr. Griffin by the Poor-Law Medical Officers.

NEWS FOR TEETOTALERS. A meeting was held in Liverpool at which it was determined to support the Town Council in its effort to secure further legislation with a view to diminish drunkenness in the town.

THE ROYAL TOUCH. It has been ascertained that four several Oxford editions of the Book of Common Prayer were printed after the accession of the house of Hanover, all containing as an integral part of the service, "The Office for the Healing."

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, CHATHAM. The Trustees of this ancient charity (founded A.D. 1078) have opened four wards, with twenty-four beds, for the treatment of ophthalmic cases. The care of these wards has been entrusted to Mr. J. Z. Laurence of London.

ABSENCE OF KIDNEY. Mr. W. Symonds of Ross (*Lancet*) examined a man who had died from typhus, and found entire absence of the right kidney, although the right suprarenal capsule was then natural and healthy. The left kidney weighed  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ounces, and was healthy.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. At the competitive examination, on the 8th August, for the prizes in Botany annually given by the Society of Apothecaries, the successful candidates were—James Ryall Rouch, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, gold medal; Marmaduke Alexander Lawson, King's College Hospital, silver medal and a book.

FRAUDULENT MEDICAL DIPLOMAS. The authorities of the Royal College of Surgeons have directed the attention of the American Minister to a practice which, if not checked, may tend to cast discredit on the medical profession and inflict deep injury on the public generally. An advertisement is inserted in some of the leading English journals containing this announcement: "Diploma (Medical) to be disposed of, a bargain." It is supposed that many of these are in the market, and that any person so disposed, whether he have any medical knowledge or not, may set up as a medical practitioner by the purchase of one of them. It has been ascertained that the diploma advertised is from an institution in New York, that it is duly attested, and is signed by "Examiners." A space for the name of the purchaser, or any nominee who may be desirous of medical honours, is left blank, so that any of the quacks who infest the metropolis, or any other person, may at once convert the diploma into his duly certified medical qualification, and do irreparable mischief to the ignorant people who may be unfortunate enough to place themselves in his hands.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND. His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant on August 29th received a deputation and congratulatory address from the King and Queen's College of Physicians. The President (Dr. Beatty) having read the address, the Lord Lieutenant said I have great pleasure in re-

ceiving your address. It is most gratifying to me to be met on my arrival in Ireland with the assurance, from so distinguished a body, both of devotion to her Majesty the Queen and of personal esteem for myself. I am aware of how unremitting your labours have been to secure the objects for which your ancient college was founded, in promoting the advance of scientific knowledge, and in alleviating sickness and suffering. The respect in which you, the physicians of Ireland, are universally held is a convincing proof of the success which has attended your efforts. At this particular moment, when the country is menaced with a visitation of cholera, I rely with confidence on the assistance which the medical profession are doubtless prepared to give to the government and the local authorities in the efforts they may be called on to make for the prevention of this formidable disease. I feel sure that, should the necessity occur, the public, and particularly the poorer portion of the community, will derive much benefit from the devoted attention, scientific knowledge, practical skill, and humane exertions which have always been evinced by the medical profession in similar cases of national peril.

GLORIOUS WAR. The Commissioners despatched to the lazarets and field hospitals by the Patriotic Help Association (Hilfsverein) of Vienna has published an interesting report. They draw a pitiable picture of the condition of the peasantry in Northern Bohemia. For six months their country has been occupied by great armies. The peasant's food has been devoured, his field laid waste, his house burnt or torn down and laid in ruins. They declare that the dead were left unburied in many places, and that the poisoned air destroyed the living. Nearly all the amputations made by the Prussian military surgeons ended fatally, but no difference was made in the treatment of Austrian and Prussian wounded by the medical men. They found the condition of the hospitals in all that related to nursing and medical attendance "deplorable". The Commission started to Brünn on the 1st of August with fifteen waggon-loads of medical comforts. In Wilkersdorf they found a Prussian company as a guard to a cholera hospital. The pestilence was so bad that in a short time 450 had died out of 700 patients, and the officer in command said, "I hope in Heaven we shall soon leave this, for my sick will all be dead in a few days". At Pardubitz they found seven wounded Austrian officers, who were getting well in airy, well-shaded tents. At Königgrätz itself they found the hospitals overstocked and short of what was needed. In one house were 115 wounded officers, and in another were 198 more. They needed splints, lint, bandages, medicine, lotions, as well as tobacco and wine. On the 9th the Commissioners visited Rosnitz, Westar, Sadowa, Nechanitz, and Hradek, and describe with horror and astonishment the condition of the country. The hands and feet of the dead were sticking out of the hasty graves. As to the hospitals in these places, the Commissioners declare all appliances and necessities were deficient. The Prussian doctors deplored their want of success in amputations. Many of the wounded had been left forty-eight hours on the field without help, and were in the most unfavourable condition for treatment by the knife. On the 14th they visited Jaromierz, Skalitz, Nachod, etc., and all the hospitals up to Trautenau. In all cases their supplies were most welcome. The report affords a terrible peep behind the scenes of a great battle—the *après*, when the conqueror has moved off with drums and trumpets, and banners flying in the setting sun, and night settles on the dying and the dead.

Dr. Fordyce dined every day at Dolly's chop-house. His researches led him to conclude that man eats oftener than nature requires, one meal a day being sufficient. He made the experiment on himself, and finding it successful, he continued the following regimen for more than twenty years. At four o'clock, his accustomed dinner hour, he entered Dolly's chop house, and took his seat at a table always reserved for him, on which were instantly placed a silver tankard full of strong ale, a bottle of port wine, and a measure containing a quarter of a pint of brandy. The moment the waiter announced him, the cook put a pound and a half of rump steak on the gridiron, and on the table some delicate trifle, as a *bonne bouche*, to serve until the steak was ready. This delicacy was sometimes half a broiled chicken, sometimes a plate of fish; when he had eaten this, he took a glass of brandy, and then proceeded to devour his steak. We say devour, because he always ate as rapidly as if eating for a wager. When he had finished his meat, he took the remainder of his brandy, having, during his dinner, drunk the tankard of ale, and afterwards the bottle of port. The doctor then adjourned to the Chapter coffee-house, in Paternoster-row, and stayed while he sipped a glass of brandy and water. He made no other meal till his return next day, at 4 o'clock, to Dolly's. (*Temple Bar*.)

**LUNACY IN IRELAND.** The number of the insane in Ireland increased considerably during the year 1865. The inspectors-general mention that, at the end of 1864 the insane of all denominations numbered 8272. In December last the number had risen to 8845; 4835 were in public asylums, and 2733 in poor-houses; private asylums held 583, and the remainder were in gaols or special criminal asylums. During the year 596 were discharged cured, and 123 improved. The number of those returned as incurable is 3623. The average mortality of the Irish asylums is as low as 8 per cent. The inspectors express astonishment at the small amount of congenital idiotcy, or helpless imbecility, which presents itself. The simple idiots number altogether only 1175. The most prominent causes of insanity, according to their observation, are hereditary predisposition, dissipation and irregularity of life. Moral causes are more prevalent among females, physical among men, and the former sex exceed in the amount of recoveries. There were but two cases of suicide and five "escapes." The non-restraint system is generally adopted, and 2632 patients are engaged in employments, of one sort or another. 242 acres of tillage are cultivated by their labour, and a profit of £2400 was realised upon it last year. It has been found by Drs. Nugent and Hatchell that out-door and other employments have a most important curative effect.

**ON THE SOURCES OF THE FAT OF THE ANIMAL BODY.** At the meeting of the British Association at Nottingham, Mr. J. B. Lawes and Dr. J. H. Gilbert read a paper on this subject. In 1842 Baron Liebig had concluded that the fat of Herbivora must be derived in great part from the carbo-hydrates of their food, but might also be produced from nitrogenous compounds. Dumas and Boussingault at first opposed this view; but subsequently the experiments of Dumas and Milne-Edwards with bees, of Persoz with geese, of Boussingault with pigs and ducks, and of the authors with pigs, had been held to be quite confirmatory of Liebig's view, at any rate, as far as the carbohydrates were concerned. But at the Bath meeting of the British Association in 1864, Dr. Hayden expressed doubt on the point, and at the Congress of Agricultural Chemists held at Munich

last year Professor Voit, from the results of experiments with dogs fed on flesh, maintained that fat must have been produced from the nitrogenous constituents of the food, and that these were probably the chief, if not the only, source of the fat even of herbivora. Baron Liebig disputed this conclusion, and his son, Hermann von Liebig, had since sought to show its fallacy by reference to experiments with cows. The authors agreed with the conclusions of these latter authorities, but pointed out the inadequacy of the data relied upon by Hermann von Liebig. They showed that, owing to the much less proportion of alimentary organs and contents, the higher character of the food, the much larger amount of fat produced both in relation to a given weight of animal within a given time and to the amount of food consumed, the much less proportion of the solid matter of the food that passed off in the solid and liquid excretions, and finally the larger proportion of fat in the increase, results obtained with pigs must be much more conclusive than those with either cows, oxen, or sheep. Numerous tables were exhibited showing the results which had been obtained by the authors in experiments with pigs, from which the following conclusions were drawn. Certainly a large proportion of the fat of the herbivora fattened for human food must be derived from other substances than fat in the food. When fed on the most appropriate fattening food, much of the stored-up fat must be produced from the carbo-hydrates. The nitrogenous constituents may also serve as a source of fat, more especially in defect of a liberal supply of the non-nitrogenous ones.

#### POISONOUS NATURE OF CRUDE PARAFFIN OIL.

At a recent meeting of the British Association, Dr. Stevenson Macadam read a paper on the deleterious effects produced on fish in streams by the discharges from paraffin works. The spent acid liquor and the spent soda liquor are the most serious discharges which escape from paraffin oil works, and their influence upon the health and life of fish is much more decided than the paraffin oil itself. The spent acid liquor consists of the sulphuric acid which has been added to the crude oil, accompanied by tar products, including picoline and other basic oils. It is a black tarry liquid, of the consistence of molasses, with a somewhat sulphurous odour, and a very small quantity added to water confers upon the latter poisonous properties. In one instance, Dr. Macadam found this spent acid liquor which was collected, somewhat diluted with water, to possess the following powerful effects upon fish: 1. When the liquor was taken by itself, and fish emersed therein, they were dead in five minutes. 2. When the liquor was diluted with three times its volume of good stream water, and fish introduced into the mixture, they were killed in ten minutes. 3. With one of the liquid and twenty of water the fish died in fifteen minutes. 4. One of the liquor and hundred of water killed the fish in fifteen to twenty minutes. 5. One of the liquid and one thousand of water was poisonous to the fish in two hours; whilst in one of the liquor to ten thousand of water, the fish were not killed by their immersion in the mixed liquid for twenty-four hours, but were apparently sick and prostrate. The spent soda liquor which has been employed in treating the oil which had been previously acted upon by acid, is necessarily decidedly alkaline and caustic in its nature. It has extracted from the oil, and retains in solution, more or less carbolic acid and its homologues, and the poisonous nature of the spent soda liquor is doubtless materially augmented by the presence of these acids. One sample of this soda liquor which was flowing from a paraffin oil work,

and which contained extra water, proved destructive to fish in ten minutes; diluted with three parts of water, it killed fish in twenty minutes; with twenty of water, the fish were dead in twenty-five minutes; with hundred of water, the fish were killed in thirty minutes; diluted with a thousand times its volume of water, the soda liquor was destructive to fish in twenty hours; whilst in ten thousand parts of water the fish were not killed, but were apparently slightly sick. Experiments were also made with crude shale oil and the refined oils obtained therefrom, and with Pennsylvanian petroleum and the refined oils extracted from it. The crude shale oil was destructive to fish in the proportion of one of the oil to one thousand of water, in twelve hours. The Pennsylvanian petroleum in the same proportion, did not kill the fish for twenty-four hours. The refined oils acted in a corresponding manner on fish; thus the refined shale oil, in the proportion of one to a thousand of water, killed the fish in twenty-four hours, whilst the refined Pennsylvanian oil did not prove destructive till two days.

### 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.

**USQUE AD FINEM.**—Mr. South has been an Examiner of the College of Surgeons hard on twenty years! He was elected in 1848. Mr. Luke became an Examiner in 1851; and has therefore only tasted the sweets of office for fifteen years! As a commentary, the Council of the College have, as we lately announced, declared by a resolution that these are examples *not* to be imitated. But why does not the Council publish its resolution, in order to let the Elective Body—the Fellows—know its opinion? This is the question a correspondent wisely asks.

**A WRITER** calls attention to the singular decrease of cholera cases which invariably occurs on Sunday and Monday—being about one-half of the cases returned on other days. Is there any way of accounting for this? Is it the Sunday rest, or the absence of public-house temptations?

**APHASIA.**—In our leader on Aphasia, whilst speaking of writings on language, we omitted the names of two authors whose contributions are of so high value, that the omission is rather a striking gap in the advice we were then giving to students. We allude to Dr. James Russell of Birmingham, and to Dr. Banks of Dublin, authors of most valuable contributions towards the elucidation of the difficulties which crowd round our studies of the pathology of language.

**COMMUNICATIONS** have been received from:—Mr. I. BAKER BROWN; Dr. J. BULLAR; Dr. JOSEPH STEVENS; Mr. FURNEAUX JORDAN; Dr. BALMAN; Dr. TILBURY FOX; Dr. F. J. BROWN; FAIR PLAY; Mr. WM. PAUL SWAIN; Mr. T. LANGSTON; Mr. HAYNES WALTON; Dr. H. JACKSON; Dr. SYMONDS; Dr. MURCHISON; AN OLD INHALER; Dr. F. ANDREW; Dr. M. MACKENZIE; Dr. JAMES RUSSELL; Dr. DE G. GRIFFITH; Mr. GRIFFIN; and Mr. HILL.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. Cholera: What it is, and how to prevent it. By E. Lankester, M.D., F.R.S. London: 1866.
2. Reflections on Cholera. By Alexander Hamilton Howe, M.D. London: 1866.
3. Report on the Sanitary Condition of Merthyr Tydfil. By T. J. Dyke. Merthyr Tydfil: 1866.
4. Cholera: a New Theory. By C. D. Kingsford, M.D. London: 1866.
5. Report to the Board of Guardians of the City of London Union, on House to House Visitation. By W. S. Saunders, M.D. London: 1866.
6. Instructional Observations and Notes on the Cholera Regulations issued by the Privy Council. By W. G. Lumley, LL.M. London: 1866.

### ADVERTISEMENTS.

Now Ready, the Small Edition of the

## British Pharmacopœia,

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REGISTRATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM,  
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## The Medical Club.

—A Club is being formed in London for the convenience of Members of the Medical Profession and gentlemen engaged in the pursuit of those sciences allied to Medicine.

The following Terms of Admission are applicable only to Members joining during the present year—viz.: Residents within the London Postal District, five guineas entrance and three guineas annual subscription; those beyond the London Postal District, three guineas entrance and one guinea annual subscription. Entrances and Subscriptions to be paid to the Bankers of the Club, the London and Westminster, 1, St. James's Square, S.W.

JOHN PROPERT, Esq., Treasurer,  
6, New Cavendish Street, W.

LODY MARSH, M.D., Honorary Secretary,

Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall Yard, S.W.  
September, 1866.

## Royal College of Physicians

OF LONDON.—FIRST PART OF THE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION FOR THE LICENCE. The next Examination of Students who have completed two years of Professional Study at a recognised Medical School will commence on Tuesday, October 2nd.

**SECOND PART OF THE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION.**—An Examination of Gentlemen who are eligible for admission to the Second Examination for the Licence will commence on Tuesday, October 9th.

Registered Medical Practitioners, qualified before January 1861, are admitted to Examination under special Bye-Law.

Candidates are required to give fourteen days notice in writing to the Registrar of the College, with whom all Certificates and Testimonials required by the Bye-Laws are to be left at the same time.

Pall Mall East, 1866.

H. A. PITMAN, M.D., Registrar.

## Society for the Relief of Widows

and ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN. Founded 1768. Incorporated by Royal Charter 1864. The Members are reminded that a QUARTERLY COURT OF DIRECTORS will be held on the 10th of October next, at which Candidates for admission into the Society can be proposed. It is desirable that the forms of proposal be filled up and forwarded to the Secretary at least a week before the Meeting. The form of proposal may be obtained of the Secretary. The benefits of the Society are restricted to the families of deceased Members of not less than two years standing. The Secretary attends at the office every Wednesday and Friday, from Four to Five o'clock.

S. W. J. MERRIMAN, M.D., Secretary.

55, Berners Street, W., September 11th, 1866.