

MR. FERGUSSON AND CONSULTATIONS WITH HOMŒOQUACKS.

SIR.—Mr. Fergusson has, in the last number of the *Lancet*, given some explanation of his presumed alliance with homœopathy; and he has done so in a way which, in my opinion, puts him only more deeply in the mire. It is clear from his own avowal that he does meet homœopaths on equal terms; for he is “occasionally consulted by homœopaths, and, hearing their history of the case in clearer terms than from the patient”, he gives his surgical opinion. What broader avowal could any one make of his consorting with quackery? Where is the difference between this conduct and “consultation”? He listens to the homœopath’s account of a case; he asks him questions as to its history and symptoms, and elicits the homœopath’s interpretation of them. He then gives his own opinion. If this is not consultation with quacks, I ask again, what is? We, here in the provinces at least, are not keen-witted enough to see the difference; and if Mr. Fergusson should ever have to deplore the scarcity of patients recommended to him from this locality, he has only his own professional backslidings to blame. I may beg him to be assured that no reputable member of the profession in this county will sanction a patient’s consulting any metropolitan surgeon or physician who is not clear of the taint of consorting with quackery.

I am, etc.,
A NORFOLK SURGEON.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. At the Comitia Majora, held on Friday, July 19th, Moxon, Walter, M.B., Finsbury Place having undergone the necessary examination, was duly admitted a member of the College.

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

Davidson, Nathaniel, Charles Street, Manchester Square
Day, William, Henry, M.D., Newmarket
Folkes, William, Dukinfield
Freer, John Henry, Rugeley, Staffordshire
Hewlett, Richard William, Harrow
Howitt, George Enoch, Wednesbury, Staffordshire
Moore, George, Hanley
Pratt, Thomas Octavius, Cardiff
Starling, John, Bishop Stortford
Squire, William, Orchard Street, Portman Square
Worts, Edwin, Colchester

The following passed the *first part* of the professional examination for the licence on the 12th inst.:—

Rickards, Walter, University College Hospital
Rix, Samuel Babt, Middlesex Hospital
Roberts, John, University College Hospital
Smith, Edward, St. George’s Hospital

APPOINTMENTS.

BURKE, John P., M.D., to be Medical Storekeeper at Malta.
GALLAGHER, John, M.D., to be Medical Storekeeper at Plymouth, *vice* Beith.
GRIGOR, Robert, M.D., to be Medical Storekeeper at Deptford Victualling Yard, *vice* Graham.
MAOILL, Martin, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Imperial*.
MULVANY, John, Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Imperial*.

Volunteer Corps. The following appointments have been made (A.V.=Artillery Volunteers; R.V.=Rifle Volunteers):—

BATE, H. F., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 19th Middlesex R.V.
MYERS, H. R., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 37th Middlesex R.V.
SCLANDERS, A., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st Nairnshire A.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

CLOWES, F., Esq., 4th Westmoreland R.V.

PLAYNE, A., M.D., 5th Berks R.V.

BIRTHS.

CARTER. On July 20th, at Potter Newton, near Leeds, the wife of *J. B. Carter, M.R.C.S., of a son.
DIXON. On July 18th, at Gresford, Denbighshire, the wife of *Halam Moore Dixon, L.R.C.P., Ed., of a son.

DEATHS.

GREENHOW, Edward, M.D., at Munshaugh House, Northumberland, aged 70, on July 14.

RYND, Francis, Esq., Surgeon, Dublin, suddenly, on July 19th.

INDIAN MEDICAL OFFICERS. In the House of Commons, a few days ago, Sir C. Wood stated, in reply to Mr. Bazley, that the whole question of the Indian medical service was under the consideration of the Government. Nothing could be done until an answer had been received from India; but the matter must be settled before long.

THE GOOD OLD TIMES OF BLEEDING. In 1649, Guy Patin wrote:—“M. Waleus, Professor of Anatomy at Leyden, died a few months ago, of a malignant fever. He was only bled twice in nine days, and consequently was roasted to death (*est mort rôti*). My son was ill at the same time, but I recovered him from his continued fever by the aid of twenty good bleedings from the arms and feet, and a dozen good purges of senna.”

WOODEN LEG-ACY. The late I. N. Bowditch, of Boston, among other bequests, left to the Massachusetts General Hospital 5,000 dollars, as a fund, to be called the “wooden leg fund,” the income to be applied toward defraying the expenses of wooden legs for patients who have been obliged to submit to amputation. In the distribution of this income, he desires that female patients should be preferred to males, and young patients to old ones.

SECOND VERMONT REGIMENT. The *Burlington Free Press* thus speaks of the appointments of Surgeon H. N. Ballou, and Assistant-Surgeon B. W. Carpenter:—“Doctors Ballou and Carpenter are well fitted by character, experience, and standing as men and in their profession, for their responsible posts, and the health of the regiment can be committed to their care with entire confidence. There will be no neglect of sick soldiers, from the booziness of the surgeons, while they retain their posts, nor will the assistant be heard to wish that he had under his care a regiment of raw *Irishmen*, instead of ‘these Vermonters, who thought they must be treated like gentlemen.’”

NAVAL MEDICAL SUPPLEMENTAL FUND SOCIETY BILL. has been read a second time. Lord Chelmsford said that his attention had been called to this subject that afternoon, by a petition from some widows of naval medical officers, which he had declined to present because he thought that the petitioners asked for some concessions to which they had no claim. There were, however, some things for which they were anxious, which perhaps the noble duke might be disposed to concede. One was that a trustee of this fund should be appointed to represent their interests; and the other that it should be understood—as he believed was the case—that the Admiralty would under this Bill have the power to increase the pensions of medical officers, if the fund would bear it, to an amount above £20 13s. 4d.—The Duke of Somerset said that he was anxious to do all he could to satisfy the wishes of the annuitants, and at the same time protect the public interests. He would communicate with the noble lord, and see what arrangement could be made to secure those objects.

SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. RYND OF DUBLIN. On Friday evening, July 19, about ten o’clock, as Mr. Rynd, an eminent surgeon of Dublin, was driving into town through the village of Clontarf, his phaeton accidentally threw down a woman at a turn of the road. Surgeon Rynd

and his servant alighted to render her assistance, and on finding that she had sustained no serious injury, they were about to resume their journey when they were stopped by two men—said to have been in liquor—who insisted upon satisfaction for the fall which the woman had received. This interruption naturally excited the gentleman's ire, and he dispatched his servant in search of a policeman, upon seeing which the fellows let go the reins, but Mr. Rynd, determined to keep them in view, followed them along the road in the direction of town. He had not, however, proceeded many perches when he was seen to fall forward and lie motionless in the vehicle. The horse dashed forward as the reins slackened, but had not proceeded very far in his flight before he was stopped by some persons coming in the opposite direction, who were horrified on finding the ill-fated gentleman quite dead in the bottom of the carriage. At a *post mortem* examination this morning it was ascertained that the cause of death was aggravated disease of the heart—death having, it is supposed, been accelerated by the excitement consequent upon the occurrences detailed.

THE AMERICAN WAR. Dr. Shoop, writes to friends in Philadelphia, that the soldiers, who are sick in the hospital at that place, are, in many cases, entirely destitute of the commonest articles of wearing apparel, such as shirts and stockings. Donations of such articles, together with sheets and bed covers, are needed and requested. It is truly pitiful that the kindness of friends should supply the poor soldier with every thing else save that, which in the hour of his utmost distress, from wounds or from disease, he absolutely needs.—The following general order has been issued from Adjutant-General Thomas's office, Washington: "The several medical directors of the army will, when they have reason to doubt the professional competency of any of the medical officers under their charge, organise a board of not less than three medical officers, which shall examine said officers of questioned professional capacity, and decide whether they are competent for the performance of their duties. If the decision of the board is adverse, they will cease to be in the military service of the United States."—"Already, though the campaign has but just commenced, we hear of measles at Fortress Monroe, of small-pox and diarrhoea at Harper's Ferry, intermittent fever at Cairo, and fever at Pensacola." At Cairo the amount of sickness is considerable, as appears from the following extract from the *Cairo Camp Register*: "The following statement exhibits the number of soldiers who have entered the army hospital at this post since the 27th of April, and the diseases for which they were treated: Diarrhoea 103; Bilious Fever 27; Rheumatism 7; Pneumonia 9; Fever and Ague 19; Dysentery 115; Gunshot Wounds 3; Pleuro-pneumonia 11; Intermittent Fever 17; Miscellaneous 461—Total number treated 772." The thermometer has stood at 94° in the shade, at one o'clock. Considering the locality and other circumstances, we fear there will be a large mortality at this point, unless the most rigid system of sanitary surveillance be enforced. Dysentery and typhoid fever are already prevalent—two most formidable diseases of the camp.—The same peculient spirit which clothed our volunteers in flimsy uniforms and sent to them spoiled provisions, is at work attempting to extort money from them in exchange for nostrums, claiming to prevent or cure diseases to which they may be liable. One of the most recent and deceptive of these is called an "aromatic belt," which is professed to insure an immunity from affections of the bowels. We would suggest that the medical profession should use their influence in protecting soldiers from being thus imposed on and burdened with such useless trumpery, and induce the kind friends of the volunteers at home to spend their money, in sending to them, in preference, articles of real utility. (Phil. Med. Rep.)

Varieties.

WHO FIRST PERFORMED OVARIOTOMY? In his report, "Improvements in Surgery in the Last Fifty Years," published in the *Transactions of the American Medical Association* for 1860, Dr. Joseph N. McDowell, of St. Louis, says:—"I hold in my possession testimony which must prove satisfactorily that the credit of the first operation does not belong to Dr. Ephraim McDowell, but to others. In 1808, a lady of Stanford, Kentucky, called on Dr. E. McDowell to be examined and operated on by him. He pronounced it a case of ovarian disease, and told her it was incurable, for she must eventually die by the bursting of the tumour in the abdomen. She returned home in despair; but having related her case to an old Indian hunter, who, in later life, had made his living by spearing animals, he proposed to cure her if she would submit to the operation. She said it was but death, and she would try it; and, accordingly, John King opened the abdomen, as he would that of a sow or heifer, and the tumour being pedunculated, he passed a ligature around the neck and cut it off, and in two weeks the woman was entirely recovered. Mr. John Camden, of New Orleans, and Peter G. Camden, formerly a mayor of this city (St. Louis), will both testify to the correctness of this statement." (Phil. Med. and Surg. Rep.)

A PLAIN FACT. The property that we all know as "hardness" in water is due to the alkaline earths—the lime and magnesia-salts present in the water. Hard water may be defined as a water capable of decomposing soap, and forming with the soap an insoluble precipitate. These salts of lime combine with the stearic acid, and form an insoluble stearate of lime, the curdy matter which is produced by washing in such waters. In washing you are rubbing the skin with this precipitate—this stearate of lime; and it is important to know what sort of substance it is. It is impossible with water of this kind, in which this curdy, fatty matter is produced, to clean the hands; you may get them nearly colourless; but still the pores of the skin are filled up with this greasy substance. When you rub soap upon your hands in the process of washing you form a solution of soap, then you immerse your hands into the water and in washing off that solution you precipitate the stearate of lime within the pores of the skin. This is, in fact, a counterpart of the processes of the dyer and calico-printer. He first of all imprints the fabric with one solution, and then precipitates a colouring matter from it by means of another solution which is applied afterwards; thus he fixes the colour within the fibre, and thus we fix the greasy stearate of lime within the pores of the skin, and render it incapable of removal by any amount of subsequent washing. (Dr. E. Frankland.)

VENTILATION OF ROOMS. Mr. Pepper lately gave a lecture on this subject at the Marylebone Institution. The object was to illustrate Mr. Cooke's apparatus for ventilating apartments. Mr. Pepper's experiments showed the utility of wire gauze in promoting the circulation of air so necessary to the health of society. Mr. Cooke's apparatus consists of a folding system of wire gauze, which folds up when the window is shut against the top stone, and can be let down to any extent by pulling down the upper frame of the window. The experiments of Mr. Pepper exhibited on a large scale the way in which the current of air is promoted by the air passing through gauze, while anything like the draft of an open window is excluded. Mr. Pepper further illustrated the deleterious gases generated in rooms with closed windows, and the effect of the gauze apparatus in their removal. Both in a hygienic and a chemical point

of view, the lecture was highly interesting and full of information, apart from any moral to be drawn from it. That moral, however, is one of the highest importance—nothing less than the purification of our respiration during the whole of the time which we pass within doors. So simple, certain, cheap, and effectual a means of promoting comfort as well as health, observed Mr. Pepper, has rarely been brought forward as the contrivance of Mr. Cooke—the only wonder being that it was never thought of before. To be sure, the same causes for wonder exist in the case of almost all those great inventions, under which the comfort and well-being of society has reached its present point.

DANGER FROM GAS. Mr. Braidwood, the late superintendent of the London Fire-engine establishment, in giving his opinion as to lighting up the British Museum in the evenings, says that, independently of the danger of explosion, to which every place where gas is used is liable, notwithstanding the accuracy of the fittings, the use of gas desiccates everything within its reach, especially ceilings, rendering them much more inflammable, and making what would otherwise be a trifling fire a serious conflagration. Besides which the heat and fumes evolved by the combustion of gas are most decidedly against the preservation of any vegetable or animal substances, and tend to discolour stone and marble in such a manner that it is very difficult to restore the original colour. Mr. Braidwood maintains that on no consideration should the British Museum, containing such invaluable property, be subjected to the risk of gaslighting. Mr. Smirke, the architect to the British Museum, reported that he doubted the expediency of introducing gas into the British Museum, but that with regard to the escape of mischievous vapours Mr. Braidwood had omitted to allude to the successful contrivances adopted in various buildings for preventing that escape—contrivances, however, adding very considerably to the cost, and requiring constant and careful attention. The trustees, after considering these opinions, resolved unanimously that they would not be justified in allowing the collections of the British Museum to be open at any hour which would require gaslight.

STATE OF THE RESERVOIRS OF WATER IN PARIS. The reservoirs Racine, constructed twenty years ago by M. Mary, are situated in a street of the same name. They are three in number, uncovered, and surrounded by houses, some without any openings on the side facing them, and others with windows, not more than two *mètres* distant, whence oil can be thrown into the first basin. On another side of the reservoir are several rows of trees, from which fall seeds, leaves, and great quantities of caterpillars, and on the fourth is a chimney of a factory from whence fall masses of soot that blacken the surface of the water. These basins are emptied quarterly for the purpose of being cleansed, at which period are discovered loads of algae, several *centimètres* in thickness. On the walls is an equally thick deposit, and frequently these basins are covered with brownish yellow masses which pass into the pipes. These masses are composed of vegetable infusoria and animalcules, mixed with vegetable *detritus* and amorphous saline matter. The water, which is four *mètres* in depth, has a dirty aspect, particularly near the walls; it holds in suspension from time to time myriads of yellow particles which have the appearance of a thick emulsion-like mud, but on examining them they are found to be myriads of living creatures. Some of the reservoirs were even in a far worse condition, on account of the great quantity of animalcules in them; the water is described as being continually agitated, and that coming up to cleansing time it is disgustingly foul. The reservoirs of the Pantheon contain perhaps the most impure water in Paris. Underneath these basins, and below the vaults upon which they are built, is a third reservoir that is covered. It

receives the overflows of the Reservoir de l'Observatoire and the Pantheon; but placed in a low temperature and never exposed to the action of the solar rays, the water contained in it is perfectly pure and limpid, and always without any body in suspension.

HEALTH OF CHILDREN. An almost incredibly low rate of mortality obtains in the district pauper schools around London. The most remarkable is the Central London District Pauper School at Hanwell, described by Mr. Tufnell in his report. This school receives children from the heart of London of the very lowest physical type, many of them half starved, almost all stunted in growth, not a few scrofulous and subject to attacks of ringworm and ophthalmia; it admits children in a diseased state, and out of 614 admitted last year, 267 were diseased. Of course with such a rule many are sent in only to die, but if we subtract these, the wealthiest families in England would envy the death-rate of this establishment. Last year it was barely two per cent.; Mr. Tufnell considers that it might reasonably have been twelve per cent.; he has known it so in country workhouses with far finer children. The chief merit of this sanitary result is ascribed to the late superintendent, Mr. Aubin, who, in the course of thirty years management of a large pauper school, had obtained by observation a sort of empirical skill in treating the ailments of the poorer classes of children, that appeared to exceed that of any regularly bred medical man. One of his doctrines was that children of this description should never touch cold water, and the Hanwell school being built under his direction has an enormous steam boiler, by means of which every part of the establishment, containing 890 or 900 children, is furnished with an unfailing supply of hot water. Every child is washed in warm water twice a week, and in addition is washed down to the middle twice daily, the younger children oftener, frequently after each meal. The sheets of every bed are changed once a week, and if they or any garment be soiled in any way, it is changed instantly, though only just put on. All the elder boys are allowed three clean shirts a week; the younger children have clean linen oftener. There are sometimes 15,000 pieces to be washed weekly. Mr. Aubin professed to have some secret in his treatment of infectious disorders, and his nurses have been bribed away to other schools with a view of discovering his method of treatment, but they could never tell anything worth knowing. If he had any secret at all it has now died with him; but Mr. Tufnell believes his real secret lay in enforcing a degree of cleanliness far beyond the practice in boarding schools attended even by the children of the richest, and which would generally be considered preposterously extravagant and wasteful.

THE CENSUS. The new "Population Tables" give returns for nearly all the Parliamentary boroughs of England and Wales, and, making a fair allowance in respect of the few instances not yet returned, they show that the population of places represented by the borough members increased by about 1,150,000 in the 10 years 1851-1861, from census to census, leaving about 980,000 for increase in the places represented by the county members. The difference of ratio, which is considerable (because the county members represent districts containing a larger population than the boroughs), is of course caused by the flow of population from the rural districts into the towns. Some instances of this are very striking. While in the 10 years the metropolis increased 253,980 by excess of registered births over deaths, it increased also 186,800 by excess of immigration over emigration (except that some allowance may have to be made for any births that may have escaped registration); the (registration) county of Lancashire, with a smaller population, increased 254,189 by births, but also 143,102 by immigration; Glamorganshire increased 41,939 by

births, but a larger number—44,224—by immigration. On the other hand, we find the effect upon the agricultural districts of their being subjected, with almost no immigration, to a constant drain of their population into the towns. The three eastern counties (Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk) have added 120,726 to their population by births since the census of 1851, but the enumerators last April found only an increase of 28,220, so that upwards of 100,000 had gone to push their fortunes elsewhere. In the five south-western counties the numbers are still more remarkable; the ten years increase by births exceeding deaths was 200,073, and yet only an increase of 32,290 remained in the district at the close of that period. Some counties parted with more by emigration than they gained by natural increase; Cambridgeshire increased by births 23,582, but by emigration it lost all that number, and 10,348 besides. Some of this emigration is to foreign parts; the bulk of it is doubtless into towns in England and South Wales. When more complete returns are made, we may expect to find that the population of places represented by the borough members of England and Wales is not less than 8,500,000.

METEORIC STONES. A number of the *Institut* journal supplies us with some recent cases of the fall of these mysterious visitors. At Trenzano, near Brescia, in Lombardy, there fell on the 12th of November, 1856, one which weighed 17lb. At Fort Peter, in the territory of Nebraska, North America, a piece of "meteoric iron" was found in 1858, weighing 30lb.; it was sent to the Academy at St. Louis. The Museum at Austin, the capital of Texas, possesses a mass weighing 320lb., composed of 89·9 of iron and 10·1 of nickel; it is an object of superstitious veneration to the Indians. The same museum has a fragment of another aérolite, weighing 124lb., consisting of 94 parts iron, 54 nickel, with traces of cobalt. On the 1st of May, 1860, there was, in Ohio, actually a shower of aérolites, which fell with violent detonations in the three counties of Guernsey, Harrison, and Belmont. One block weighed 103lb; several weighed from 40lb. to 60lb., and the weight of the whole was estimated at 700lb. But the most extraordinary of these bodies is one which was found buried in the soil near Rogues River, in Oregon, by John Evans, a gold seeker. Its weight is not given; probably it is still embedded in the earth; but it is said to surpass in size the famous mass of meteoric iron discovered by Pallas, in Siberia, which weighed 1,400lb. A fragment of the Oregon aérolite, sent to Boston, was found to contain 104 per cent. of nickel combined with the iron.

SANITARY STATE OF EDINBURGH. The following description of the sanitary state of Modern Athens is not taken from the pages of *Humphrey Clinker*. It will be found in the *Builder*:—"We are quite persuaded, from what we saw lying about the streets, that the bulk of the sewage of Edinburgh—that is to say the solid portion of it—never reaches the sewers at all. By a rough estimate we may set down the population of the High-street quarter at 30,000. What will our readers say when we tell them that, with a few trifling exceptions, the whole of this population are destitute of any convenience for personal cleanliness? There are a few public necessities here and there, but the old houses are as free of water-closets as they were in the sixteenth century. By a sort of municipal fiction, it is believed that the poor inhabitants carry their pails every night at a certain hour down ten or twelve stories, and up a long close, to the police dung-cart. Never was there a more foolish belief. Boswell tells us that, about the time of Johnson's visit, the streets of Edinburgh were as perilous as they were odiferous. The practice then was to empty the pails from the windows. Many a full-flowing periwig has thus been moistened into flaccidity. The peril, we think, is not so great now; for the modern practice is to carry down the pails and empty them in the gutter. But the

odour is still as bad. We devoutly believe that no smell in Europe or Asia—not in Aleppo or Damascus, in the present day—can equal in depth and intensity, in concentration and power, the diabolical combination of sulphured hydrogen we came upon one evening about ten o'clock in a place called Toddrick's Wynd! Boswell regrets in his time the want of covered sewers. Covered sewers have now been made through all the principal thoroughfares and the principal closes. Within the last few years a sum of £50,000 or £60,000 has been expended on underground sewers in Edinburgh. But what is the use of a covered sewer through an alley which has not a single soil pipe into the sewer? And such is the condition of things—a condition, of course, which renders all attempts at domestic cleanliness abortive, and, in fact, almost hopeless. The few public conveniences which have been erected about the city only serve to concentrate the effluvia in certain spots. We were taken to see one of the largest of these, and certainly, whatever might have been our previous astonishment at the sanitary condition of the City, our state of mind approached now to something like consternation. Over that picturesque valley which separates the old from the new town is built the celebrated North Bridge, a grand and imposing old structure. It consists of three great arches, each seventy-two feet in span, and about sixty feet from the centre of the entrados to the surface of the roadway; two smaller open-side arches on each side; and a connected series of covered vaults. The southernmost of these open side arches is rudely walled in with brickwork, and converted into a privy. Before entering, we must add that through the arches of the North Bridge, from any side, is obtained a magnificent view of the city landscape: the Calton hill on the one hand, or the Castle rock on the other. It was surely too bad to shut up one of the charming vistas in such a manner; indeed, the aspect, as seen through the one arch, compared with that seen into the other, recalled to our memory the ancient mythus in which the goddess of beauty is united to the goddess of drains. The quantity of refuse collected there amounts to upwards of two tons per week, which is removed and sold, along with the rest of the surface manure, to the neighbouring farmers. Not so much a sense of delicacy—in that case a false delicacy—as a sense of absolute disgust, prevents us, however, from saying more about this place. Literally, as well as figuratively, it is a gigantic town swamp under a gigantic bridge."

MAINTENANCE OF SMALL-POX. Mr. Simon reported to the Privy Council some time since that during the last three or four years there have been continually epidemics of small-pox in various parts of England, and, at his suggestion, an inspector (Dr. Seaton) was instructed to visit a number of these places to make inquiries and suggest such measures as might be found desirable. The investigation showed clearly enough that wherever vaccination falls into neglect, small-pox tends to become again the same frightful pestilence as it was in the days before Jenner's discovery; and wherever vaccination is universally and properly performed, small-pox tends to be as of little effect as any extinct epidemic of the Middle Ages. Yet the neglect of vaccination is extreme. In London, where, from the commencement of the epidemic in November 1858, to its termination in September 1860, 2,063 persons fell victims to the disease, about ten per cent. of the children examined in schools were wholly unprotected by vaccination, and this proportion would probably be exceeded among children not sent to school at all. Dr. Ballard calculated that in Islington alone there must be about 4,000 children, from earliest school-age up to 15 who were never successfully vaccinated. The investigation in the districts selected was very complete, and it caused an enormous number of vaccinations. Dr. Seaton considers it probable that at

the close of the inspection the proportion of the vaccinated in the districts visited in London was larger than it had ever before been, the result of which was that the small-pox death-rate fell considerably below a third of that in the rest of London; but he is convinced that, now that the alarm of small-pox has passed away, people will relapse into the old habits of indifference and neglect, and that without constant vigilance a re-accumulation of susceptible persons will take place, and go on until it shall attain the amount which will admit of another of those epidemic visitations from which London is never free for more than two years together. In Northampton there was a severe epidemic in 1850, and 144 persons died of small-pox; yet in 1858, in All Saints' and St. Giles' districts, the births being above 1,000, the public vaccinations at all ages amounted to 12, and in 1859, on the same amount of births, to only 55. Small-pox reappeared there in an epidemic form early last year, and during March, April, May, and June, when it was at its height, there was a considerable, though still very inadequate, amount of vaccination; but from June to the end of November there were but 22 public vaccinations in the districts just named, though small-pox had been continuously present, and 32 deaths had within that period been registered from it. Of 168 unvaccinated children in the schools and workhouse of that union, 101 were marked with small-pox—a seventh of all the children examined. Throughout the country districts visited there was an obvious delay and neglect of vaccination. All vaccination of the poorer classes tends to merge in that of the public vaccinator, but though there were above 80,000 births in these districts in two years and a-half, there were but about 40,000 public vaccinations, and only two-thirds of them were children under one year; the rest were arrears. In a union with 1,070 births the public vaccinations of infants (under one year) were not 100. There were districts found, with some thousands of inhabitants, in which there had been no public vaccination performed for two or three years; in some a fifth or more of the children examined were wholly unprotected. Of the children examined in schools 16 per cent. had never been successfully vaccinated, and, deducting those who had had the small-pox and so were secure, there were above 12 per cent. without any protection whatever. But the child is not the only person concerned; every unvaccinated child is one of a "dangerous class."

FISH IN ARCTIC REGIONS. Esquimaux, when furred animals fail, know how to make clothing of the skins of large fishes of the salmon kind. The skin of the burbot (*Lota*) is used on the Obi in place of glass for windows. In America, though sturgeons abound in Hudson's Bay, and in the rivers that fall into the Northern Pacific, none exist in the Mackenzie or in any river that falls into the Arctic Sea; but in Siberia this fish is said by Pallas merely to be less frequent in these north-flowing rivers, and Wrangell mentions the sturgeon as one of the fishes of the Kolyma district. Sturgeons also enter the Obi, and, like other anadromous fishes of that river, ascend the tributary streams that flow from the mountains, and therein they pass the winter. Such of them as remain in the main stream are said to die of convulsions in the month of January; but it is said also that these fishes crowd together in deep holes of the river during the severe season, and remain there at rest. Fish can be preserved all the winter in Arctic climates in a frozen state; but even when taken towards the close of the summer months, and hung up in the open air, it keeps in an eatable state, though not without some taint, till the following spring. It is therefore a viand of vital importance to the native inhabitants and fur-traders residing near large rivers or lakes. (*Sir J. Richardson.*)

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....	Royal Free, 2 P.M.—Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.
TUESDAY.	Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.
WEDNESDAY....	St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopedic, 2 P.M.
THURSDAY.....	St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—London, 1:30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.
FRIDAY.	Westminster Ophthalmic, 1:30 P.M.
SATURDAY....	St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1:30 P.M.—King's College, 1:30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.

POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—JULY 20, 1861.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births. Deaths.
During week.....	{ Boys.. 905 } 1819 1171 { Girls.. 914 }
Average of corresponding weeks 1851-60	1574 1168
Barometer:	
Highest (Wed.) 29.79; lowest (Sun.) 29.34; mean 29.574.	
Thermometer:	
Highest in sun—extremes (Mon.) 129 degs.	
In shade—highest (Tues.) 75.3 degrees; lowest (Wed.) 48.8 degs.	
Mean—61.3 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.—0.4 degs.	
Range—during week, 26.5 degrees; mean daily, 17 degrees.	
Mean humidity of air (<i>saturation</i> =100), 82.	
Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.40.	

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.

CORRESPONDENTS, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

WE cannot insert Dr. Hayward's letter. It is long, and simply personal:—one, in the perusal of which, our readers could find neither profit nor amusement.

HOMEOPATHY.—A leading physician of Edinburgh writes as follows:—I agree in every word that is said about homeopathy, and think the Association should come to some decided resolution on the subject. The evil is as great in Edinburgh as in London. The homeopaths all have their consulting physician and surgeon here, who pander to the quackery for the sake of gold. The fashionable world, in their desire for homeopathy, hydrotherapy, and Mesmerism, literally reward the desecration of *quasi* good men in the profession. It is, as you call it, a "Social Evil."

A VOLUNTEER writes:—"I am desirous of obtaining your opinion in the following matter. As surgeon to a volunteer corps, I attend to a gentleman who has been accidentally wounded whilst blank-firing; and he subsequently continues under my care. Ought I to consider him a private patient after the first dressing? or to attend to him gratuitously until he is well?"

[We think there can be no doubt that volunteer surgeons of rifle corps are bound to attend to all the mischances, surgical or medical, which may happen to any of their comrades in the performance of their volunteer duties. If, however, the wounded volunteer live at an inconvenient distance from his medical officer, the case becomes not so clear. Surgeons of regiments are supposed to have their sick men immediately under their hands. EDITOR.]

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Mr. WILLIAM COPNEY; Dr. HENRY NUTTALL; Mr. E. VENNING; Dr. GRAILY HEWITT; Mr. R. GRIFFIN; Dr. McWILLIAM; A NORFOLK SURGEON; Dr. WADHAM; Mr. J. B. CARTER; THE MEDICAL REGISTRAR; Mr. T. M. STONE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE following Laws of the Association will be strictly enforced:—

15. The subscription to the Association shall be One Guinea annually; and each member on paying his subscription shall be entitled to receive the publications of the Association of the current year. The subscriptions shall date from the 1st of January in each year, and shall be considered as due unless notice of withdrawal be given in writing to the Secretary on or before the 25th of December previous. If any member's subscription remain unpaid twelve months after it shall have become due, the publications of the Society shall be withheld from such member until his arrears be paid.

16. The name of no member shall remain on the books of the Association, whose arrears extend over three years; but the omission of the name from the list of members shall not be deemed, either in honour or equity, to relieve any member from his liability for the subscriptions due for the period during which he has availed himself of the privileges of membership.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *General Secretary.*

Worcester, July 1861.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

TO ADVERTISERS.

British Medical Journal. —
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Advertisements ought to be delivered and paid for at the Office on the Thursday preceding publication; or if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a respectable reference.

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(Signed) A. H. HASSALL, M.D.

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St. George's Hospital Medical

SCHOOL SESSION 1861-62.—The WINTER COURSE of INSTRUCTION will commence on Tuesday, October 1st, with an Introductory Address by Mr. MAXWELL T. MASTERS, F.L.S., at 2 P.M.

Physicians—Dr. Page, Dr. Bence Jones, Dr. Pitman, Dr. Fuller. Obstetric Physician—Dr. Robert Lee. Assistant Physicians—Dr. Barclay and Dr. Ogle. Consulting Surgeons—Mr. Cesar Hawkins, Mr. Cutler. Surgeons—Mr. Tatum, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Hewett, Mr. Pollock. Assistant Surgeons—Mr. Henry Lee, Mr. Holmes.

LECTURERS.

Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy—Mr. Pollock and Mr. Holmes. Physiology and Comparative Anatomy—Mr. Athol Johnson. Chemistry—Dr. Noad. Medicine—Dr. Pitman. Surgery—Mr. Tatum. Pathology—Dr. Ogle and Mr. Henry Lee.

On the payment of a compounding fee of £100, a pupil becomes perpetual to the Practice of the Physicians and Surgeons and to all Lectures, and eligible to compete for all Prizes, Exhibitions, and offices of House Surgeon, Medical and Surgical Registrar, Obstetric Assistant, and Curator of the Museum, and may also become Clinical Clerk for two periods of three months each, and Dresser for two similar periods.

On the payment of £90—one-half, £45, to be paid at the commencement of the first Winter Session, and the other half, £45, at the commencement of the second Winter Session—a pupil will be admitted to the Hospital Practice and Lectures required for examination for the Licence of the College of Physicians, by the College of Surgeons, and Society of Apothecaries. The above fee entitles a pupil to hold the office of Clinical Clerk and Dresser.

Gentlemen can enter to the Hospital Practice and Lectures separately, or to any one Course of Lectures.

The Hospital contains 350 beds. Clinical Lectures are delivered by the Physicians and Surgeons every week.

A MATERNITY DEPARTMENT, for the delivery of married lying-in women at their own homes, is established at the Hospital; and a Ward is devoted for the reception of women suffering under diseases peculiar to the sex, under the superintendence of Dr. Robert Lee, the Obstetric Physician.

The William Brown Exhibition, of Forty Pounds per annum, tenable for three years, will be “bestowed on the candidate who shall show the best general fitness for the exercise of the medical profession, and whose moral conduct shall in all respects be satisfactory.”

The following Prizes will be awarded at the termination of the Session:—

Sir Charles Clarke's Prize for Good Conduct.
The Thompson Medal.
Sir Benjamin Brodie's Clinical Prize in Surgery.
The Lewis Powell Clinical Prize in Medicine.

A Prize of Twenty Guineas, for general proficiency in Medical Studies, will be offered to students who enter to the Hospital Medical School for the Session 1861-62; and for the encouragement of Clinical Study—

A Prize of Twenty Guineas, for Surgeons' Pupils in their second year.

A Prize of Twenty Guineas, for Physicians' pupils in their second year.

Further information may be obtained from Mr. George D. Pollock, the Treasurer of the School, from any of the Lecturers, or from Mr. Hammerton, at the Hospital.