

The *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal* makes some strong remarks on the outcry lately raised against the employment of medicines, and the increasing tendency to trust to the curative power of Nature in disease. It observes, that Nature is doubtless competent to the cure of many diseases, acute and chronic; but that the action of drugs may co-operate with the efforts of Nature, and thus produce a more speedy cure. A splinter in the skin will be thrown off by suppuration; but extraction at once relieves the annoyance. A child, having eaten unwholesome food, is seized with convulsions: let it alone, and, in all probability, the convulsion will pass off, and the offensive matter will be discharged from the bowels without interference. But does this result prove that a cathartic might not have procured more speedy relief, without the wear and tear caused by the lengthened pain and distress? It is, indeed, doubtful whether exhaustion caused by protracted pain is not often much more injurious than the operation of active medicines—"drugs" so called.

The *Wien. Med. Wochenschr.* says that there is at the present moment a great hunting after medals on the part of Vienna doctors. Numerous applications have been made for the article to the Minister.

Dr. Cazenave of Bordeaux gives, in *Gazette des Hôpitaux*, a case of death of a man suffering from calculus, through fright immediately before the operation of lithotomy. The patient was a well-known veterinary surgeon, aged 60 years, once a very hale and energetic man. Lithotomy had failed to relieve him: resort was therefore had to lithotomy. The patient was bandaged up for the operation; and the operator was on the point of introducing the catheter into the bladder, when the patient suddenly became pale and pulseless, and, spite of all attempts to recover him, was dead in ten minutes.

This year, 166 medical students have entered the University of Brussels.

M. Barth, *à propos* of a discussion on the ingestion of blood at the Société d'Emulation, said that a young cachectic female under his care found benefit from the use of blood, of which she took a draught every morning at one of the *abattoirs* in Paris.

Mlle. Marie Bassetti has passed a brilliant examination in the Baccalaureat of Sciences, before the French Faculty. She is the second young lady who has done so.

Dr. Peters of New York has added a little volume—*A Treatise on the Origin, etc., of Asiatic Cholera*—to the modern library of cholera literature. He holds that cholera is portable and communicable, and that infectiousness resides mainly in the vomit and intestinal evacuations. No case, he asserts, of diarrhoea, etc., can be converted into cholera, unless the patient have been exposed to the peculiar infection of this disease.

Association Intelligence.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE second ordinary meeting of the above Branch will be held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday evening, December 13th, at 7.15 P.M.

The following papers are expected:—A Case of Gonorrhœal Rheumatism. By A. Prichard, Esq. An Extraordinary Case of Carcinoma in a Child. By W. B. Herapath, M.D. On the Internal Use of Tartar Emetic in Sudden Acute Inflammations. By J. K. Spender, M.B. An Unusual Case of Valvular Disease of the Heart. By Ezra Hunt, Esq. Clinical Temperature in Acute Disease. By H. W. Freeman, L.R.C.P.L.

R. S. FOWLER, Honorary Secretary.

SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT MEDICAL MEETINGS.

THE next meeting of the above Branch will be held at Longton's Hotel, Sydenham, on Thursday, December 13th. The chair will be taken by Dr. Ray, of Dulwich, at 4 P.M.

Papers, etc., will be read by Dr. Horace Jeaffreson, of Wandsworth; Dr. J. M. Bright, of Forest Hill; Mr. Roper, of Croydon; Mr. Sydney Jones, of London; and Mr. Cresswell, of South Norwood.

Dinner will be provided at 6 P.M.

HENRY T. LANCESTER, M.D., Hon. Sec.
Croydon, November 28th, 1866.

CHOLERA. No death from either cholera or diarrhoea has occurred in London since Tuesday week last.

THE UTILISATION OF SEWAGE. An influential meeting of gentlemen favourable to the question of the utilisation of the sewage of Liverpool was held last week, to hear an address on the subject from Lord Robert Montagu, M.P. After some general arguments and observations on the importance of keeping rivers pure, and returning all waste products to the land, his lordship quoted from the report of the royal commission certain results of utilisation from experiments made during 1861, 1862, and 1863. These experiments showed that land unsewaged yielded 9, 8, and 4 tons of grass per acre—a decreasing quantity each year; while land irrigated by town sewage yielded from 27 to 37 tons. In Edinburgh, where the utilisation was adopted, land yielded £30 per acre; at Croydon there were four cuttings of grass each year at £10 per acre, yielding £40 per acre in all; at South Norwood Mr. Latham cleared £40 an acre. By adopting the utilisation system at Liverpool Lord Robert Montagu estimated that a revenue of £150,000 a year might be created. With regard to milk, the results of utilisation were most surprising, the calculation of the commissioners being, that 1,000 gallons of milk per acre might be obtained, which, at eightpence per gallon, would afford a revenue of from £30 to £35 per acre. In fact, boundless wealth lay in store for the towns by this plan of returning excreted matters to the soil, while the agricultural advantage was equally great. A company has been established to utilise the sewage of Liverpool in the way proposed. A discussion ensued at the termination of Lord Robert's address, in which Mr. Bateman, C.E., Mr. Neilson, Dr. Trench, medical officer of health, and other gentlemen took part.

Medical News.

THE MEDICAL EVIDENCE IN THE HUNTER CASE.

THE medical evidence in the case *Hunter v. Sharpe*, was given by Dr. C. J. B. Williams, Dr. Cotton, Dr. G. Johnson, Dr. W. O. Markham, Dr. Quain, and Dr. Odling. To repeat the evidence and the admirable charge of the judge, would be to fill the JOURNAL with matter which, although of great interest and importance, has for the most part already appeared. The evidence, however, in this case, was remarkable for its cogency, its moderation, and the unimpaired vigour in which it was left by a searching cross-examination. Scientific witnesses have rarely been more severely tested, and still more rarely have the attempts to shake any part of evidence so completely failed.

CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL. On Friday week a new Convalescent Hospital was opened at Clewer.

SCURVY. The members of the Hunterian Society assembled on Wednesday week to discuss the nature and treatment of scurvy, and the hygienic conditions under which it is produced. A paper was read thereon by Dr. Dickson, R.N., medical officer to her Majesty's Customs, and the meeting was attended by Captain Dawson, R.N., Captain Toynbee, and other non-medical visitors.

PROMOTION IN THE NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE. Sir John Pakington has, in the exercise of his undoubted privilege, promoted Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets Alexander Armstrong to the coveted rank of Inspector-General over the heads of three of his seniors. Of these, however, one is incapacitated from a painful disorder from giving further service to his country, while another has but a scanty claim for further advancement. The remaining one, however, has served long and faithfully, and, many will think, was fully entitled to promotion before Dr. Armstrong. We allude to Dr. James Salmon, whose seniority dates as far back as 1855, while that of Dr. Armstrong only goes to 1858. Under other circumstances we should have heartily congratulated Dr. Armstrong on his good fortune. He has worked hard and faithfully for the prize of his profession, but such a preference at this moment is likely to act prejudicially on the Naval Medical corps, which has loudly expressed its grievance before the committee on the narrowness of the prospect of rising by talent or service to the upper grades, when it sees that even that limited prospect is still further closed by Court influence, as it does not require a man to be a seer to guess at the exact character of "the special service recorded at the Admiralty," for which Dr. Armstrong is indebted for his sudden removal from Melville Hospital by promotion. We do not suppose that Dr. Salmon, if he lives, will have long to wait for his next step; but in the meantime he is compelled to submit to the annoyance of seeing a junior promoted to be his senior officer, with the full conviction in his own mind, and in the minds of others that he was fairly entitled to advancement, and that he should not have been passed over. Sir John Pakington has been admitted by the naval medical officers to be their staunch and consistent friend; and we feel convinced, as the service generally feels, that the feelings of a meritorious man have been deeply injured, some step will be taken in order that the bad impression which has been created will be speedily removed.

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.—Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, 2 P.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, P.M.—Royal Free, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY. Medical Society of London, 8 P.M., Mr. W. F. Teevan, "On the Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of the Urethra with the aid of the Endoscope."

TUESDAY. Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8 P.M., Ballot. 8.30 P.M., Mr. Christopher Heath's Case of Aneurism of the Arteria Iliominata successfully treated by Ligature of the Subclavian and Carotid Arteries.

WEDNESDAY. British Archaeological Association, 8.30 P.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 Publisher begs to intimate that orders for JOURNALS sent by post must be accompanied by stamps for the amount. Price of each number is, by post, sixpence.

ERRATUM.—The word "nitric", at the head of Professor Bennett's note (JOURNAL, Nov. 24, p. 593), should have been *acetic*.

F. S. wishes to know what is the best way of administering chloroform internally. He has lately seen milk recommended as the best vehicle; but he does not think it perfectly satisfactory.

AN ASSOCIATE, Cardiff.—Griffin & Co., Long Acre; Elliott Brothers, Charing Cross; W. Ladd, Beak Street; Jackson and Townsend, wholesale dealers, 89, Bishopsgate Street Within.

A GUARDIAN, Manchester.—If your pupil, passed the ensuing examination in arts, etc., at the College of Surgeons, he could enter on his professional studies at once, and thus save half a session. Write to the Secretary.

THE MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND.—Mr. A. B. Steele, of Liverpool, asks how it has come to pass that the Medical Benevolent Fund, originated by the late Mr. Newnham, in connection with this Association, has been, to all appearance, separated from the parent stem. He has for some time observed, with regret, that the support which the Fund receives from the members of the Association is by no means general; and he attributes this partly to the annual meeting for the election of officers being held apart from that of the Association, and from the arrangements not being such as to keep the Fund before the minds of the members in connection with the Association. He can imagine no better machinery for the extension of such an institution than would be afforded by the Association and its Branches, nor any object more worthy of its application. We commend this subject to the consideration of the managers of the Fund.

A HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN writes:—I wish you would ask your readers, holding similar appointments to myself, whether they consider the addition of an egg, a rice-pudding, half-a-pint of beef-tea, or other extras, to the ordinary diet, necessary for a large proportion of convalescent hospital patients. I do; but our secretary and some of the governors differ from me on this point.

MR. ERICHSEN's letter shall appear next week.

CHOLERINE AND CHARCOAL.—Dr. Farr, F.R.S., of the General Register Office, has communicated to us an interesting explanation of the sense in which he intends the statement to be understood that Dr. Frankland has shown "that cholera-stuff passes through filtering-paper, and that water containing one-five-hundredth part of the matter is not entirely purified by transmission through animal charcoal." This is in answer to the question which we put last week in the "Notes of the Week". From the documents forwarded, including the supplement to the weekly Report of the Registrar-General, Nov. 17th, we learn that "cholera-stuff" is used as descriptive of "rice-water evacuations", which is "neither a good nor an agreeable name for public use." In the Registrar-General's Report, Dr. Farr has called the zymotic matter of small-pox "varioline"; of cholera, "cholerine", etc. This word is not, Dr. Farr thinks, used by English writers for cholera diarrhoea (here he is not accurate in his memory); but it is so used by the French. He has dropped, therefore, the *e*, and writes *cholrine*, to avoid ambiguity. This latter he commends to all who accept the hypothesis that there is some stuff that, taken into the system, does, in a certain proportion of cases, produce what is called "cholera". We shall take further opportunity of referring to the interesting letter of Dr. Frankland, and the rather inconclusive but highly important experiments referred to.

DR. EDWIN HEARNE forwards us a letter, which he has addressed also to the *Southampton Times*, strongly denouncing the adoption by the Privy Council of the strict system of quarantine imposed upon the *Atroto*.

DR. KIDD's letter shall meet with due consideration.

THE CASE OF HUNTER v. SHARPE.—There is one feature in the case of Hunter v. Sharpe on which an evident misconception prevails. The full and pointed reference to Mrs. Merrick's case, in the middle of the article, was not declared upon by plaintiff as libellous; and when the defendants pleaded a general justification, they were called upon by motion in the Court of Queen's Bench, on the 12th January last, as careful newspaper readers will remember, to furnish particulars of their justification. The Lord Chief Justice Cockburn then intimated that any other matter than that justifying the alleged libel charging professional malpractice or quackery would be excluded. How, after this published decision of the Court, any question concerning the Merrick case came to be submitted to the jury by the plaintiff's counsel, it is difficult to understand; but it may not have influenced the result. Leave was given to move for a new trial; but the defendants were probably well satisfied with the result.

MR. R. L. BOWLES.—The paper is one of considerable interest, and shall have early insertion.

NEURALGIA AFTER SHINGLES.—SIR: Would you or some of your numerous readers kindly inform me whether there is any remedy for the very severe neuralgic pains which often attend "shingles", even after they have got well. I have now under my care three cases; in one of which they have lasted for twelve months, coming on more particularly with damp weather; and in the other two cases, the pain renders the patients unable to sleep at night. If you can suggest any remedy, you will greatly oblige.

Dec. 4, 1866. I am, etc., A. C.

[We hope some of our readers may be able to reply to this question. We have known division of the frontal branch of the fifth nerve proposed by an eminent London surgeon in a severe and persevering case of neuralgia following upon herpes of the forehead. EDITOR.]

A PAPER by Dr. R. Liebreich on Strabotomy is in type, and will appear in the next number of the JOURNAL.

THE INDIAN ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.—SIR: Will you kindly inform me in your next issue, whether the new Army Medical Warrant will in any way affect those entering the Indian service; or whether any new Warrant is likely to be issued for that service also. Apologising for so troubling you.

I am, etc.,

CHIRURGUS.

F.R.C.P. asks why pigs, whose flesh is swarming with live trichines, do not die of irritation, fever, etc., while men, who eat their flesh, do. We believe, however, that it is not correct to state that pigs do not, or rather do never, die under these circumstances. In America, it is believed that death from this cause is frequently classed as what is known as hog-cholera. The danger from trichines is probably proportionate in animals, as in man, to the number of them which infest the body. We should be glad to hear what Dr. Cobbold, our greatest English authority on this subject, has to say about it.

TREATMENT OF CANCER, ETC., BY INJECTIONS.—SIR: Whatever might have been Sir James Simpson's object in operating, I have nowhere stated that "sphacelus" was ever produced. For the production of sphacelus, I should have thought that the free access of oxygen was necessary—a very likely thing, indeed, to take place through an opening in healthy skin no larger than would be made by the introduction of a common darning-needle.

I am, etc., THO. SKINNER, M.D.

Liverpool, November 28th, 1866.

MR. R. MOORE writes concerning the case of a gentleman in practice before 1815, and duly registered as such; but who commenced practice by going into partnership with his father a few months before he was of age. "He is most anxious to ascertain whether that fact can affect his legal status now, after being in the profession more than fifty years." The fact mentioned may affect the validity of the partnership and of any acts done as partner. This is a legal question; but it cannot affect his present status as a registered practitioner.

MEDICAL STUDENTS.—SIR: From the remarks made in your JOURNAL last week, respecting the letter of "Medical Tutor" in the *Times* newspaper, it appears that all who are concerned in medical tuition are called upon to express their sentiments. I therefore beg to inform you that I consider the letter of "Medical Tutor" to be a most false and malicious libel, both upon students and their professional teachers.

I am, etc., JOHN STEGGALL, M.D.

2, Southampton Street, Bloomsbury Square, Dec. 3, 1866.

[Communications have been addressed to us, on the part of nearly every medical tutor in London, disclaiming participation in the sentiments expressed by "Medical Tutor" in the *Times*.]

DISINFECTANTS AND DEODORISERS.—SIR: I see it announced in your last number, that the Lords of the Admiralty have ordered the use of Burnett's Fluid to be discontinued in the navy, because it has been "discovered" that chloride of zinc is not a disinfectant, but only a deodoriser, and moreover a frequent cause of fatal accidents. This compound having been in use in the navy twenty-five years, it would appear that it takes the Medical Department of the Admiralty exactly a quarter of a century to "discover" what a few simple experiments might have sufficed to make clear in the course of a day or two.

Carbolic acid, it seems, is to be substituted for the discarded preparation. It will be curious to note how many years will be required by the Admiralty to discover that this substance is neither a disinfectant nor deodoriser, but merely an antiseptic. If the "tar acids", as the phrase now is (see the *Chemical News*), be really good for anything in place of disinfectants, would it not give rise to a considerable saving to the national exchequer, to let "the fleet" know that they can readily make their own, by the old plan of thrusting a hot poker into a bucket of tar.

London, Dec. 3, 1866. I am, etc., JACK TAR.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, ETC., have been received from:—DR. ACLAND, Oxford; DR. BURROWS; MR. W. BOWMAN; DR. THOMAS SHAPTER; DR. GIBSON; DR. A. W. BARCLAY; DR. WARBURTON BEGBIE, Edinburgh; DR. A. W. BARCLAY; MR. FRY; DR. LIONEL BEALE; MR. CLARKE; DR. COTTON; DR. CYRUS O. DANIELL; DR. FULLER; DR. FOX; DR. GREENHOW; MR. HARRISON, Leeds; DR. HILLIER; DR. HABERSON; MR. HOLMES; MR. HOLT; PROFESSOR HUMPHREY; DR. LYON; DR. LIEBREICH; MR. HARRY LEACH; DR. MERYON; DR. MADSLEY; MR. CHARLES H. MOORE; MR. PRICHARD; DR. PAGET; MR. POLLOCK; DR. ROLLESTONE; DR. RADCLIFFE; SR. JOHN FIFE; DR. DAUBENTON; DR. LETHEBY; MR. BARWELL; MR. LYDE; DR. JAMES RUSSELL; DR. HEARNE; DR. LANCHESTER; MR. J. T. MOORE; MR. R. L. BOWLES; MR. T. M. STONE; DR. HANDFIELD JONES; F. S. F.R.C.P.; A HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN; AN ASSOCIATE, Cardiff; MR. ERICHSEN; DR. JAMES MITCHELL; MR. R. MOORE; MR. TEEVAN; MR. I. B. BROWN; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; MR. A. COX; MR. ERICHSEN; DR. ILIFFE; THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY; MR. THOS. BRYANT; DR. ROBERT FINCH; MR. JOHN LIDDLE; DR. DUCKWORTH; DR. BAZINE; MR. PAGET; MR. HOLMES COOTE; MR. TEALE; MR. HEY; DR. CHARLTON; DR. HALDANE; MR. BERKELEY HILL; DR. FALCONER; PROFESSOR LISTER; DR. ANDREW CLARK; DR. KIDD; MR. CRITCHETT; DR. W. FARR; DR. GREENHALGH; DR. MEADOWS; MR. W. CROOKES; DR. CRUISE; DR. SIEVEKING; PROFESSOR LAYCOCK; and DR. BRODIE.