

Association Intelligence.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE second ordinary meeting was held at the York House, Bath, on December 13th, 1866; J. S. BARTRUM, Esq., F.R.C.S., President, in the Chair. There were also present thirty-two members and seven visitors.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

New Members. Mr. H. Wintle (Bristol), Mr. J. R. Dunn (Keynsham), and Thos. Barrett, M.D. (Bath), were elected members of the Association and the Branch.

Dr. TUNSTALL and Mr. R. N. STONE gave notice that they should introduce amendments to the present law regarding the mode of ballot for new members. The President suggested that they should confer together, and give notice to the Secretaries to make the next meeting *special* to discuss the subject.

Communications. The following communications were made.

1. On Gonorrhœal Rheumatism. By A. Prichard, Esq. A discussion followed, in which Drs. Cooke, Tunstall, and Martyn took part.

2. An Extraordinary Case of Carcinoma in a Child. By W. B. Herapath, M.D. Mr. Leonard, Dr. Gourlay, and Mr. Mason took part in the discussion.

3. The Internal Use of Tartar Emetic in sudden Acute Inflammations. By J. K. Spender, Esq.

4. Mr. H. W. FREEMAN showed some interesting readings of the Sphygmograph from patients under his charge at the hospital.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT.

A MEETING of this Society was held on Thursday, December 13th, at the Longton Hotel, Sydenham. EDWARD RAY, M.D., of Dulwich, was in the Chair; and eighteen members and visitors were present.

The Late Mr. W. T. Sargent. The following resolution was proposed by Dr. LANCHESTER, seconded by Mr. BOTTOMLEY, and carried unanimously.

"That this Society has heard with the deepest regret of the untimely death of Mr. W. T. Sargent of Redhill, which occurred only a few days after he had attended and read a paper at its last meeting. The Society desires to express its appreciation of his high professional worth, as well as of the general esteem in which he was held; and to tender the expression of its warm sympathy with his widow and family in their sad bereavement."

Communications. 1. Dr. J. M. BRIGHT, of Forest Hill, read the notes of a case of Intrathoracic Cancer. The symptoms, at first obscure, were ultimately such as to enable a correct diagnosis to be formed. Dr. Bright was thanked for his paper, and requested to allow it to be published.

2. Mr. SYDNEY JONES gave the history of a recent case in which Gastrotomy had been performed for the relief of a patient suffering from Stricture of the Œsophagus. The patient survived the operation twelve days—a longer period than in any previously recorded case. He eventually died of pneumonia—an apparently accidental complication.—Mr. COOPER FORSTER congratulated Mr. S. Jones on the degree of success he had met with, and made some remarks

on the operation, which he himself had twice performed.

3. Mr. CRESSWELL, of South Norwood, read the report of a case of Fatal Obstruction in the Small Intestines, occurring in a patient who had been the subject of gastric fever some time previously. The *post mortem* examination showed great constriction of the intestine at one point, due, Mr. Cresswell believed, to the contraction of an old typhoid ulcer.

4. Mr. E. REYNOLDS RAY showed a large Gall-Stone, which had passed by ulceration into the intestines of a patient, producing a fatal result; and read the notes of the case.

5. Dr. RAY exhibited the Bones of a Fœtus, which had been passed *per rectum*, at different times in the course of two years, by a woman the subject of extra-uterine foetation. The patient eventually did well.

6. Dr. BRAXTON HICKS exhibited his Cephalotribe, and promised, at a future opportunity, to make some remarks on its use, and on the advantages to be derived from it.

Next Meeting. It was arranged that the next meeting should be held at Croydon, on Thursday, March 14th, 1867; and that Mr. Berney be requested to act as chairman.

The Dinner took place at 6.15 P.M., and was attended by sixteen of those who were present at the meeting.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: GENERAL MEETING.

THE third general meeting of the present session was held at the Midland Institute, December 13th, 1866. Present: T. A. CARTER, M.D., President, in the Chair; and twenty-four members.

Communications. 1. Dr. B. W. FOSTER exhibited a specimen of Rupture of the Aortic Valve from muscular effort. The specimen was taken from a soldier who had been discharged on account of the symptoms produced by the rupture, which occurred while the man was stretching over a high obstacle in order to reach something beyond. The left segment of the aortic valve was torn from its attachment at its angle of junction with the posterior; it was still attached about three-eighths of an inch below the other segments. The curtain of the valve was also perforated in two places. The pulse-traces, taken with the sphygmograph, were also shown.

2. Mr. OLIVER PEMBERTON read notes of a case of Foreign Body in the Larynx, and exhibited the *post mortem* appearances of the same. The child, 7½ years old, came under Mr. Pemberton's care in August last. She was said to have swallowed, in the September of the previous year, a portion of a japanned buckle. She was seen by a surgeon within half an hour of the accident, when she presented an anxious appearance, and suffered from difficulty of breathing and loss of voice. There was no difficulty in deglutition. The symptoms began to abate; and, when Mr. Pemberton saw the child, she was healthy, and suffered no inconvenience beyond the weakness of voice. There was no stridor; and no abnormal physical signs could be discovered upon auscultation of the lungs or of the larynx. On account of the absence of urgent symptoms, laryngotomy was not deemed advisable, and the child returned home. Three days after her return, she was seized with violent vomiting from an overloaded stomach. This probably stirred the foreign body, set up inflammation of the laryngeal mucous membrane, and caused death. The body of the buckle, an inch long, was found lying vertically in the larynx posteriorly, while the teeth lay in the angle of the thyroid cartilage.

3. Dr. RUSSELL read a paper on Cholera and the Water-supply. Dr. Russell alluded to the origination by Dr. Snow of the theory of the propagation of cholera through the water-supply, and said that the experience of the present epidemic accorded entirely with this theory. According to Dr. Snow's theory, cholera is the result of a specific poison which lives and multiplies in the alimentary canal; and further, the cholera poison is extensively contained in the discharges from the stomach and bowels of the cholera patients, and is disseminated by them. Being dried, the poison may be conveyed by the atmosphere or by clothing, though by far most frequently by water; the water holding in solution the germs of the disease, which it conveys into the system when used as a drink. He noticed that the salient facts which had been established respecting the extension of recent epidemics accorded with this theory. He said that man was the main, if not the sole, agent in multiplying the disease and conveying it to distant places. Even a single individual may be the means of introducing the disease into a locality, and thereby originating an epidemic; and the infecting power was intensified when man moved in masses, as in pilgrimages, armies, etc. Dr. Russell then gave details of some of the most remarkable epidemics of cholera, and showed how in each instance it might be attributed to impure water; and mentioned cases in which the disease had been traced to privies, and through these to the infection of land-springs. He mentioned Dr. Budd's aphorism, that cholera is a disease that infects the ground; and said that this infection of the ground was the principle which connects itself with the relation which subsists between cholera and the water-supply. Dr. Russell then detailed many instances in which the outbreak of cholera was distinctly traced to infected water; and stated that authors, and also the medical officers of health, were agreed in this view almost unanimously. Dr. Russell concluded a very interesting paper by some practical remarks upon the prevention of an outbreak of cholera, and called attention to the frequency with which the pump-water of large towns was found to be unwholesome, such unwholesomeness in many instances not being recognisable by taste or smell.

Each of the papers was followed by an interesting discussion.

New Members. At a Council-meeting of the Branch, the following gentlemen were elected members of the British Medical Association:—Dr. Wylie, the General Hospital, Birmingham; Dr. Overend Drewry, Walsall; Mr. Charles Iliffe, West Bromwich; Mr. George Elkington, jun., Birmingham; Mr. C. J. Bracey, M.B., Birmingham; Mr. E. H. Addenbrook, the Children's Hospital; Mr. Francis Wm. Underhill, Tipton.

THE BLANE MEDALS. The Council of the College of Surgeons has just forwarded these naval medical prizes to the Director-General of the Medical Department of the Royal Navy, to be distributed to the successful candidates.

LONGEVITY. A question which has long been agitated and argued *pro and con* is, whether the work of the brain is injurious to health, and whether it shortens life. In relation to this subject, the Paris correspondent of the *Morning Star* notices that most of the clever men of France reach a great age. Of the members of the French Academy, M. Viennet is 89; M. de Ségur, 86; de Pougerville, 76; Lebrun, 82; Villemain, 76; Lamartine, 76; Flourens, 78; M. Guizot is 79, and M. Thiers, 69; Berryer is 74; the Duke de Broglie 82. The ages of the younger members of the Academy range from 60 to 70.

Reports of Societies.

WESTERN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY.

FRIDAY, NOV. 2ND, 1866.

W. MARCET, M.D., F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A Case of Rupture of the Heart. By G. F. BLANDFORD, M.B. R. T., aged 71, who had been for thirty years an inmate of an asylum, summoned the resident medical officer to see him early in the morning of May 13th. He appeared to have caught a severe cold, had some cough, and much pain in the chest; was shivering. His face and eyes seemed swollen; and he had vomited. His pulse intermitted regularly every three beats; the heart's sounds were muffled, and the action feeble. The feet were cold, and all appetite gone. Mustard plasters were applied to the chest, and ammonia and other restoratives were given; and, before the day was over, he expressed himself greatly relieved. On the 14th, he had had a restless night, but was better in the morning. He was sitting on the sofa; was unaccountably languid and weak; pulse very irregular; the heart's sounds were very muffled. On the 15th, he was much better, but still languid, and could not eat. When Dr. Blandford saw him at 2 P.M., he was sitting up at his table, trying to eat some dinner; but he said he could not get on with it. His pulse then was of an extraordinary character; it was so irregular, that it was impossible to count it. At six o'clock, the medical officer saw him again, and took him the newspaper, which he came forward to receive in his usual manner. Shortly afterwards, his attendant, going in with his tea, found him on the sofa, apparently asleep, but in reality dead.

At a *post mortem* examination, the pericardium was found distended with bloody serum; and the whole of the heart was covered with blood-clot, which, after being removed, weighed about 5½ oz. At the very apex of the heart was a small orifice, through which the blood had come, the muscular tissue round being also stained for some distance. This orifice opened into the right ventricle. The valves were healthy; and the muscular structure generally did not appear either softened or fatty, neither was it dilated or thinned. There was no fat upon the surface of the organ. The other organs were healthy.

Acute Pericarditis apparently from Pyæmia. By A. GODWIN, M.D. A boy, C. W., aged 5, well nourished, who had nearly all the prepuce removed on account of phimosis, eight days afterwards had severe rigors, and was very ill. The author saw him on the tenth day, when he was lying on his back with his knees drawn up; much fever; hot dry skin; tongue foul and dry; pulse rapid; and breathing hurried. The whole abdomen was very painful to the touch, more especially in the hepatic region. The heart-sounds were healthy, and nothing but a few moist râles were heard at the base of the lungs. He went on much the same for three or four days, sometimes appearing better, but soon relapsing. The pain shifted to the epigastrium; he had once or twice partial sweats at night, more especially of the head; but the author never found his skin in the least degree moist. He would take no nourishment but wine. Occasionally he asked for food, but would not eat it when given to him. He was at times delirious, but was never observed so by Dr. Godwin. He had tenderness of both knees and the right wrist, lasting for a few

"Burford, Oxon, March 8th, 1862.

"Dear Sir,—Having tried the vaccine inoculation in 817 patients, many of whom have since visited patients in small-pox houses in all the different stages of that direful disease, both in the natural and inoculated small-pox, and ate and drank in company with them; and having also repeatedly inoculated some of my vaccine patients with the most active small-pox virus; all of which tests they have all uniformly resisted—I feel fully justified in stating that the vaccine inoculation, when judiciously conducted, and the requisite attention is paid to the progress of this benign disease, is a safe and efficacious preventive of the small-pox.

"I am, dear sir, with great respect,

"Your obedient servant,

"THOMAS HUNT.

"To Dr. Jenner, 136, New Bond Street, London."

In reference to the manner in which my father tested the efficacy of vaccination, I may mention that my native town Burford was so severely visited by small-pox during the last century, that a pest-house was built about half-a-mile from the town, to which the small-pox patients were removed. After my two elder brothers had been successfully vaccinated, my father sent them, together with my mother, who had in early life had the natural small-pox, to live for some weeks in the pest-house, which was then full of small-pox patients. The result was their perfect immunity from the disease. The original letters, together with a report of the different numbers vaccinated at each town or village, were shown at the last meeting of the Manchester Medical Society.

I am, etc.,

R. T. HUNT.

Manchester, Nov. 10th, 1866,

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL. The Right Hon. Earl Grosvenor, M.P., has kindly consented to take the chair at the anniversary dinner of this hospital, to be held in the spring. The Committee intend trebling the number of beds, and are liable for £7,000 to complete the purchase and furnishing of the new hospital. Additional wards will be opened as soon as funds warrant the Committee in doing so.

SWINGING AS A REMEDY. Dr. Brown-Séquard recommends the use of the swing as a preventive of nervous paroxysms which recur periodically. In certain cases of hysteria and epilepsy, he has prevented the paroxysm by engaging his patient in violent swinging at the first indication of the accession of the fit. The *modus operandi* is easily explained.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE PUNJAUB. A first attempt has been made to collect vital statistics of the general population in the Punjaub. In a population of 14,820,845, there are said to have been 253,898 deaths, or only 1.71 per cent. As the death-rate in England is 22.36 per thousand, this is evidently considerably understated. The rate varies from 3.95 per cent. in Montgomery district to 0.42 in Simla, and only 0.92 in hot Mooltan, and 0.79 in sickly Peshawur. Of the total number of deaths, 3,148 were from violence, 66,222 from small-pox, 3,310 from cholera, 139,065 from fever, and 40,969 from other diseases. Epidemic cholera did not appear except in Ferozepore. There were 156 suicides, 30 were poisoned, 601 died from snake-bite, 204 from wounds, 176 from wild beasts, and 1,981 from accidents. These statistics were collected by Dr. Dallas, inspector-general of dispensaries, through the district officers who employed the village police. The people gave information very willingly.—*Homeward Mail*.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. At a general meeting of the Fellows, held on Saturday, December 22nd, the following member of the College was duly admitted a Fellow of the same.

Travis, Nathaniel Allen, Nice

At the same meeting, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, were duly admitted members of the College:—

Bateman, Frederic, M.D. Aberdeen, Norwich

Bäumler, Christian Gottfried Heinrich, M.D. Erlangen, 10, Finsbury Place North

Headley, Walter Balls, M.B. Cantab., 5, Tavistock Place

Lee, Robert James, M.B. Cantab., 4, Savile Row

Paxton, Francis Valentine, M.B. Oxon., West Dean, Chichester

Whipham, Thomas Tillyer, M.B. Oxon., St. George's Hospital

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, 1866. Final Medical Examinations for the Degree of B.M.

Whipham, Thomas Tillyer, M.A., Oriel

Whitwell, John Maude, M.A., Pembroke

First Medical Examination.

Cordfield, William Henry, B.A., Pembroke

Flowers, William Field, B.A., St. Alban Hall

APPOINTMENTS.

ARMY.

BRYSAN, Surgeon A., M.D., 76th Foot, to be Surgeon 27th Foot, *vice* W. A. Thompson, M.B.

HOOPER, Staff-Surgeon A., to be Surgeon 80th Foot, *vice* Surgeon-Major R. W. Read.

READ, Surgeon-Major R. W., 30th Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon-Major, *vice* A. Hooper.

THOMPSON, Surgeon W. A., M.B., 27th Foot, to be Surgeon 76th Foot, *vice* A. Bryson, M.D.

WALL, Staff-Surgeon T. F., to be Staff-Surgeon-Major, having completed twenty years' full-pay service.

AN UGLY CANARD. It is stated (says the *Sunday Gazette*) that, at a large military hospital established in Breslau-on-the-Oder, in Silesia, by order of the Prussian Government, a circular saw worked by steam is to be used for the purpose of amputating such limbs of wounded soldiers as the surgeons shall direct to be taken off.

DONATION. A lady named Dimond, residing in Southampton, has given her house and its furniture to the Committee of the Royal South Hants Infirmary for the benefit of that institution, and has gone to reside in lodgings. The furniture has been sold by auction, and fetched £500; and the house has been let for nearly £100 a year.

CARNARVON. The authorities are said to have for the last few years uttered continual warnings on the subject of want of drainage and filthy courts. In the various quarters of Carnarvon where deaths have taken place, there is no difficulty, it appears, in tracing the causes either to crowded neighbourhoods, overflowing cesspools, absence of drains, or drains without traps. About one-fourth only of the town is at present supplied with water, by no means of the best or purest, by two companies, which have been bought off by the corporation, which body obtained an Act during the last session of Parliament for supplying the whole town with water from Quellan Lake, about five miles from the town, on the Beddgelert road. This water was analysed by Mr. Herepath, who pronounced it to be the purest water he had ever tasted. But for the opposition of some small landed proprietors, the new waterworks would be now almost completed. All propositions for a thorough system of drainage, too, have been met by popular clamour and objections to pay the requisite rates.—*Builder*.

BEQUESTS. St. Mary's and the Cancer Hospitals have just had £100 each bequeathed to them by Sir John Pollard Willoughby, Bart., of Westbourne Terrace, formerly of Bombay, who has also bequeathed 2,000 rupees to the Grant Medical College, Bombay, and sums to other institutions not strictly medical.

ARMS AND LEGS. Since the beginning of the late rebellion up to May 11th of the present year, the American Government has furnished gratuitously to disabled Union soldiers the following number of artificial limbs:—arms, 2,134; legs, 3,784; hands, 144; feet, 9; apparatus for excision, 104. The cost of the same amounted to \$357,728.

THE BENGAL MEDICAL SERVICE. The offer made by the Government, of a retiring pension of £250 a year, without putting in the required period of service, has naturally found ready acceptance amongst the inspectors-general and deputy inspectors-general of hospitals in the Bengal medical service. The *Englishman* believes that there is a race amongst them who shall first accept the proffered pensions and get away; that Dr. E. Hare, deputy inspector-general of hospitals, Lahore circle, has sent in his papers to accept the pension and retire from the service; and that other officers either have accepted or intend doing so, in order that the reduction of the administrative medical staff to the minimum desired by the Secretary of State, and prescribed in his orders recently published, may be carried out. [We pointed out last week the injustice involved in delaying the promotion of those next in rank, to whom compensation should be made, as we think.]

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT.—The necessity for putting in force at Aldershot the provisions of the Contagious Diseases Prevention Act has formed the subject of a memorial from the Farnham Board of Guardians to the Secretary of State for War, the Guardians complaining of the heavy expense entailed upon the Union by the admission to the workhouse infirmary of a large number of women requiring a long course or medical treatment. The following reply to the memorial has been received, addressed to the Clerk of the Guardians:—"War-office, Dec. 10, 1866. Sir,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., and to acquaint you in reply that he is anxious that arrangements should be made for putting the Contagious Diseases Act into force without delay at Aldershot, a building for a hospital having already been selected, and that he has called for information which he hopes may enable him to do so effectually. I am to add that the delay which has occurred has been mainly due to the difficulties interposed by the Hampshire magistrates in occupying the War Department building (chosen for a hospital) by the constabulary at Aldershot.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, EDWARD LUGARD."

MILK AND WATER.—The water cholera theory of the Registrar-General is not yet accepted by scientific men as proved, for a good many reasons, of which we shall probably hear more as the more deliberately worked out reports of the medical officers of health and the special commissioners of the Privy Council are completed and published. Meantime it has been a matter of some difficulty to merely practical and unscientific persons to understand how, amongst a population of whom a very small proportion ever drink unboiled water, the cholera should be so widely spread by that agent. Will the prevalence of adulteration help to solve the difficulty? Beer we all know to be largely adulterated with unboiled water, and London milk equally or more so. Even country milk, it appears from a statement in a medical contemporary, is not free from admixture with water

drawn from surface-wells suspiciously near to cess-pools and dunghoops and drains. We have no hope of stopping this sophistication; but may we appeal to the consciences of the adulterators—or such remnants of conscience as may be presumed to be in their possession—to boil the water before they adulterate our beer and our milk? It would, perhaps, be too great a stretch of indulgence to expect that it should be filtered through charcoal.—*Fall Mall Gazette.*

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, 1 P.M.—Royal Free, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

TUESDAY. Pathological Society of London, 8 P.M.—Anthropological Society of London, 8 P.M.
WEDNESDAY. Obstetrical Society of London, 7 P.M., Special Council Meeting, 8 P.M., "Fœtal Peritonitis in Utero," by W. A. Hunt, Esq.; and other papers, 9 P.M., President's Address.
THURSDAY. Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. A paper by the President; "Report of the Committee on Infanticide and Infant Mortality"; Conversazione.

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, *stapence*.

A JUNIOR, Cheltenham.—The result of the preliminary examination in arts, etc., at the College of Surgeons, will not be made known for two or three weeks. There were nearly one hundred and forty candidates, including seventeen for the Fellowship.

A FREE VACCINATOR shall receive a detailed answer next week.

MR. ROBERT MARCHANT, Taunton, wishes to know how the sulphate of iron is used for the purpose of poisoning rats.

We are indebted to Mr. C. C. Wallis for his good wishes.

VACANT ASSISTANT-SURGEONCY AT CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.
SIR,—I was very much startled last week by reading an announcement in a medical journal to the effect that I was to have the vacant assistant-surgeoncy at Charing Cross Hospital. I beg to inform you that not only is there no vacancy at the Charing Cross Hospital for an assistant-surgeon, but that I have not the honour of being either directly or indirectly connected with that institution. I am, etc.,

10, Portman Square, Dec. 27, 1866.

W. F. TREVAN.

GRANTS FOR SUCCESSFUL VACCINATION.

A FREE Vaccinator has seen the notices which we recently gave of "Public Grants for Successful Vaccination", quoted in the *Scotsman*, and asks whether Scotland is to participate, etc. In reply to his questions, we have to say, that the powers of the Privy Council in the matter of vaccination are confined to England and Wales, *ergo* the granting of awards to public vaccinators is limited to the same portions of the United Kingdom. We are not aware of a similar system of awards being in operation in Scotland, the public vaccination of which division of the United Kingdom is under the direction of the Board of Supervision in Scotland.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS.—In reply to several correspondents anxious to know when the reports of the examiners on the recent examinations in arts, etc., at the College of Surgeons will be made known, we have ascertained that at least a fortnight must elapse before the result can be communicated to the Council.

NEURALGIA AFTER SHINGLES.

SIR,—I fear your correspondent A. C. will find his case of "neuralgia after shingles" very rebellious to treatment. Some months ago, I attended a gentleman with a most severe attack of "herpes zoster". His general health much improved after the eruption; and, instead of being sallow and depressed, as he was before the attack, he became clear in his complexion, and active in mind and body. The neuralgia that has succeeded bids defiance to all remedies. As he is disposed to slight gout and rheumatism, iodide of potassium, colchicum, and afterwards steel and quinine, have been ordered, without any relief to the local pain and irritation. Belladonna, tincture of aconite with laudanum, rubbed into the part, as recommended by Mr. Erasmus Wilson, have also failed. Change of air, and the most regular diet, have done no good for the neuralgia. In other respects, my patient is so much better in health than he has been for years, that he objects to a course of arsenic, which I have frequently advised. I have some faith in this powerful alternative; and I fully agree with Mr. Morgan of Bristol, that it would be well to give it a fair trial. I may observe, that my patient's eruption commenced on the left side of the neck, extending from the shoulder to the back of the ear and side of the head, in the course of the cervical nerves; it then appeared on the right forearm, and afterwards in the abdominal region. Mr. Wilson never saw the patient; but, in answer to a letter which I addressed to him, he thus writes:—"As a herpes zoster, the case is anomalous; for that disease never attacks more than one side of the body, and generally confines itself to the distribution of an approximal group of nerves," etc. It was not complicated with eczema, nor any other eruption. The pain and irritation now generally come on at night, followed by heat and redness of the left side of the neck. Nothing affords so much relief as a lotion made with the liquor plumbi diacetatis and laudanum. This my patient used in the acute stage; and for temporary relief it answers equally well in the chronic.

I am, etc., W. H. DAY.

10, Manchester Square, W., December 18th, 1866.

NEURALGIA FOLLOWING SHINGLES.

SIR,—In a recent number of your JOURNAL, a correspondent asks what remedy best relieves the neuralgia following shingles. It so happens that I have just had two cases under my care; and, after trying quina internally, and local applications of iodine, veratria ointment, and various opiate lotions, with but little benefit, I bethought me of aconitia (Ph. Brit.) in the proportion of two grains to half an ounce of rectified spirit. The good effect was most marked, after painting it once or twice over the affected part. The only drawback is the expensiveness of the remedy.

I am, etc., G. GODDARD ROGERS, M.D.

Grosvenor Street, W., December 18th, 1866.

THE DERBY GUARDIANS have engaged in a squabble with Mr. Lindley, their surgeon. The dignity of the chairman and the members was terribly hurt by some observations, and especially by some "gesticulations" of Mr. Lindley. The result of the matter has been that Mr. Lindley, whose "gesticulations" are described as having been fearful, has resigned; and, perhaps on the whole, it was the best thing that he could do under the disagreeable circumstances.

F. C. H. can best protect himself by openly and plainly denouncing the conduct which he describes, taking care that his language be moderate though firm, and that the facts of which he speaks have been rigorously tested. The position is, no doubt, a very difficult one. Misstatements of any kind from which specific damage can be shown to have resulted will, of course, carry damages if it should be necessary, which we trust it will not, to resort to law.

ERRATUM.—In the correspondence on Mr. Walter Coulson and the Hospital for Stone, that gentleman wishes to substitute a reference to the "Article Lithotripsy" on Holmes's *System of Surgery* for "Lithotomy."—In Dr. Harling's letter of last week, for "our experienced surgeon," read "an, etc."

MR. EDWARD BELLAMY writes to say that he is not a candidate for the Vacant Assistant Surgeony for the Westminster Hospital, for which his name has been mentioned.

H. S.—Mr. Elliott, Surgeon to the Chichester Infirmary, performed lithotomy three times on the same subject. Another distinguished provincial surgeon, Dr. Scott of Southsea, Hants, was the first person in this country who successfully performed the operation of œsophagotomy. It has been done since by Mr. Cock of Guy's Hospital.

MILES.—We have not lost sight of the question; but it is desirable to wait a little longer before discussing the subject openly.

THE BERMUDA BLUNDERS.

THE *Bermuda Colonist* states that the epidemic of yellow fever which proved so fatal to the Queen's Regiment, was traced to an external source.

"A steamer from Wilmington arrived here, and as she was by some suspected as a 'tainted' vessel, the cry of warning was raised against her by an unfortunate journalist at the time; but mercantile interests and influence were brought out to smother the cry, and a card was immediately published over the signatures of certain army medical gentlemen, contradicting the warning raised against the ship as an infected vessel; but, after the disease had developed itself, there was no doubt whatever in the public mind concerning its introduction."

It concludes as follows:—"However, the object of Dr. Barrow's report, and the article of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* referring to it, being obviously intended to strengthen the position of the medical gentlemen of the army in their science, and thereby to enable them to carry out a more efficient system of sanitary provisions than has been hitherto carried on in towns like ours, we feel very sanguine that much good will be brought to light from this very important subject."

MR. BOTT of Bury shall receive an answer shortly. We are making further inquiries on the subject.

BERMUDA will see that the same series of facts are stated in Colonel Attye's letter, which we publish elsewhere.

X. asks:—Can any of your readers tell me what is "a camphor moxa", of which I read as being extremely beneficial in some obstinate cases of sciatica, where hypodermic injection of morphia has failed? also, what is the best and least irritating formula for the solution of morphia for hypodermic injection?

PAPERS are in type by Mr. Paget, Professor Christison, Professor Longmore, Mr. Henry Thompson, Mr. Berkeley Hill, Dr. Down, Dr. Wm. Newman, Dr. A. T. H. Waters, Dr. S. W. D. Williams, Dr. Cossar, etc., and will be published in early numbers.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:—Lieut.-Colonel Attye; Dr. Cogan; Mr. Walter Coulson; Dr. Harling; Dr. William Budd; Dr. E. A. Waters, Chester; Dr. Lingen, Hereford; Mr. Brendon Curgeven; Dr. Maudsley; Dr. J. Marion Sims, Paris; Mr. Charles Lahee; Professor Christison; Mr. T. B. Bott, Bury; Mr. Trotter, Durham; Mr. Donnelly, Dublin; Dr. Peacock; Dr. M. Mackenzie; Dr. W. Newman, Stamford; Mr. William Copney; Mr. T. Sympton; Mr. T. M. Stone; H. B. F.; Dr. Charles West; Dr. Harling; F. C. H.; Dr. Miller, Glasgow; Secretary of the Great Northern Hospital; Mr. E. Bellamy; Mrs. Baines; Mr. Marchant, Taunton; Mr. C. C. Wallis, Castle Carey; Dr. Gibbon (with enclosure); Dr. S. Wood (with enclosure); Dr. J. L. H. Down; Dr. Greenhalgh; Mr. W. Corke, St. Stephen's, Tonbridge; Dr. Parkes; The Honorary Secretary of the Obstetrical Society; and Dr. W. B. Herapath.

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