

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of this Branch was held at the Philosophical Institution, Bristol, on July 11th, at 4.50 p.m. The chair having been taken by J. S. BARTRUM, Esq., President for the past year, the minutes of the last annual meeting were read by the Bath secretary, Mr. Fowler, and confirmed. Mr. Bartrum then resigned the chair to R. W. COE, F.R.C.S., President for the ensuing year, who delivered an address.

Dr. DAVEY proposed, and Mr. SKEATE seconded, the following resolution, which was carried by acclamation:—"That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Coe, for his address."

Report of Council.—The Bristol secretary, Mr. Steele, then read the following Report of Council:—

"The Council of the Bath and Bristol Branch of the British Medical Association have again the pleasure of meeting their fellow associates, and of reporting that this Branch continues to carry out efficiently the purposes, professional and scientific, for the furtherance of which it was originally formed.

"The Branch has during the past year sustained the loss of seventeen members; sixteen by removal and resignation, and one from the lamentable death of Mr. Shirley E. Woolmer, who fell a sacrifice to typhus contracted in the discharge of his duties as a Poor-law medical officer. Although he had been but few years among us, he had gained the high esteem of many professional brethren, and won the confidence and affection of the neighbourhood in which he practised. Fourteen new members have been elected during the past year; and our number now is 149.

"The plan of holding six ordinary meetings during the year gives perfect satisfaction; the attendances have been large, the papers abundant and valuable, and the discussions and remarks well sustained."

[Here followed a list of nineteen papers read during the year; the titles of which have been already given in the JOURNAL.]

"The following statement of accounts shows a balance still due to the secretaries:

Income.—Subscriptions and arrears, £24:6:0; due to secretaries on December 31st, 1866, £3:19:11; total £28:5:11.

Expenditure.—Due to secretaries on December 31st, 1865, £4:9:8; hire of rooms, etc., £10:15; printing, £6:12; postage, £5:3:3; sundries, £1:6; total £28:5:11.

"The members will observe, from the present statement of accounts, that, in consequence of the number of meetings having been increased from four to six, the expenses of the Branch have proportionally increased; and to meet the deficiency your Council recommend that the annual subscription should be raised from 3s. 6d. to 4s.; a small addition to which they feel the members will readily accede.

"Your Council rejoice that the present Government, in introducing a Bill to amend the Representation of the People, had recognised the claims of the universities of the kingdom to a more extended representation. As the universities to which it is proposed to give members contain a large number of medical graduates, there is some prospect that the profession will eventually be better represented in Parliament than it is at present.

"In accordance with the resolution passed at the first ordinary meeting of the past session, a memorial to the Government, signed by the president, retiring president, and the two secretaries, has been sent, urging the claims of the sisters of the late Dr. Snow to an annuity on account of the great benefit arising from his investigations in cholera and chloroform.

"At a special general meeting held on January 24th, 1867, the rule determining the mode of election was altered to the following: 'That any gentleman wishing to join this Branch shall be proposed and seconded at any ordinary meeting; his christian and surname, residence, and professional titles, being given in writing to the secretaries. The circular convening the subsequent meeting, at which the ballot shall take place, shall contain the above particulars, together with the names and residences of his proposer and seconder, and shall be circulated at least ten clear days before such meeting. If one black ball in every ten votes be found, the chairman shall declare the candidate not elected. The ballot-box shall be so placed that no person shall know how another person votes.'

"Your Council cannot lose this opportunity for urging the great claims of the Medical Benevolent Fund upon your consideration; and with pleasure record the kind act of one member, who forwarded, immediately on receiving it, his portion of the balance of the Medical Provident Society's funds; and hope that other gentlemen may be induced to follow his excellent example.

"The scrutineers appointed by your Council to examine the ballot papers for filling up the vacancies in the Council, report the following to have been elected: Bath: W. J. Church, Esq., F. Mason, Esq., T. G. Stockwell, Esq., R. N. Stone, Esq., and James Tunstall, M.D. Bristol: F. Brittan, M.D., J. G. Davey, M.D., C. Leonard, Esq., and C. Smerdon, Esq."

Resolutions.—The following resolutions were proposed, and carried unanimously.

1. Moved by Dr. HERAPATH, seconded by Mr. C. H. COLLINS: "That the Report of Council now read, be received and adopted."

2. Moved by Dr. TUNSTALL, and seconded by Mr. MASON: "That, the finances of the Branch not having been sufficient for the payment of the expenses of six meetings during the year, the contribution to the Branch expenses be in future 4s. instead of 3s. 6d."

3. Moved by Dr. FALCONER, and seconded by Mr. MORGAN: "That Robert N. Stone, Esq., be elected president-elect for the ensuing year."

4. Proposed by Dr. E. L. FOX, and seconded by Mr. GAINE: "That the best thanks of the Branch are due, and be presented to Mr. Bartrum, for his able conduct in the chair, and to the members of the Council of the past year, for their management of the affairs of the Branch."

5. Proposed by Mr. BARTRUM, and seconded by Dr. MARSHALL: "That the best thanks of the Branch are due, and be presented to Messrs. R. S. Fowler, and C. Steele; and that they be requested to continue their services as honorary secretaries for the ensuing year."

Representatives in the General Council.—The following gentlemen were elected representatives of the Branch on the General Council of the Association: J. Beddoe, M.D., W. J. Church, Esq., W. Mitchell Clarke, Esq., R. W. Coe, Esq., J. G. Davey, M.D., H. Marshall, M.D., Horace Swete, Esq.

Amendment of the Medical Act.—A resolution was moved by Dr. FALCONER, seconded by Dr. HERAPATH, and carried unanimously, to the effect that a committee be appointed to draw up a petition to both Houses of Parliament in support of the amendment of the Medical Act.

Mr. BARTRUM proposed, and Dr. TUNSTALL seconded, that the committee consist of Mr. Coe, Dr. Falconer, Dr. Herapath, Dr. Davey, and Mr. Bartrum.

Amendment of Sanitary Laws.—It was proposed by Dr. FALCONER, seconded by Mr. FOWLER, and carried unanimously: "That the committee appointed in May 1866, to consider the resolution of the committee of council with reference to the sanitary laws, be reappointed, to draw up a petition for the amendment of the sanitary laws." The name of Dr. Falconer was added to the committee, which consisted of Dr. Brittan, Dr. Davey, Dr. Martyn, Dr. Herapath, Mr. Davies, and Mr. Steele.

Dinner.—The annual dinner was held at the Volunteer Club at half-past six o'clock, R. W. Coe, Esq., President, in the chair. Nearly forty members and visitors were present, including the mayor of Bristol. Dr. Symonds, vice-president of the Association, Dr. Falconer, treasurer of the Association, etc. The usual loyal and professional toasts were given and responded to.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of the Branch was held at the Medical Institution, Sheffield, on Thursday, July 26th, when the President, J. C. HALL, M.D., Sheffield, presided. There was a large attendance of members and visitors.

New Members.—The following new members of the Association and of the Branch were elected:—F. T. Griffiths, M.D.; K. Wilson, M.D.; C. Elam, M.D.; J. Walker, Esq.; W. F. Favell, Esq.; R. Hewer, Esq.; G. Moseley, Esq.; W. H. Booth, Esq.; A. Jackson, Esq. (Sheffield); T. C. Allbutt, M.D. (Leeds); T. G. Smith, Esq.; W. Stawman, Esq. (Barnsley); J. B. Pritchett, Esq. (Huddersfield); W. Pritchard, Esq.; Dr. Saville (East Retford); Dr. Wilson (Clay Cross); J. Crowther, Esq. (Rotherham); W. Haxworth, Esq. (Kirkby Overblow); G. Browning, Esq. (Outbridge).

Report of Council.—The Secretary read the following report:—

"The Council of the Yorkshire Branch of the British Medical Association desire to congratulate the members on again, after an interval of four years, assembling in Sheffield. The value of their annual gatherings in different towns in the county, not only as a means of promoting social and friendly intercourse amongst the members of the profession practising in the country, but also as a means of strengthening the Association and increasing the number of its members, is evidenced by the fact that, on this occasion, we have to record an addition of nineteen new members to our ranks; and, although this is no doubt mainly due to the exertions and good-will of our President-elect (Dr. Hall), yet we

must feel that in all probability that energy would not have been evoked had it not been for the fact that the meeting was held in his own neighbourhood.

"Your Council have for many years felt that the number of Yorkshire members of the Association is not equal to that of other counties, when the extent and population of the county is considered, and they desire to suggest to the meeting as a fit subject for discussion the best means of increasing the number of Yorkshire members. The admirable manner in which the JOURNAL is conducted, and the extent and variety of information contained in it, ought to be a sufficient inducement to members of the profession to seek admission into our ranks.

"There are few, if any, topics of professional interest calling for observation from your Council; they have noticed with satisfaction the passing of Mr. Hardy's Metropolitan Poor Bill, and they trust that the improved position of the Poor-Law Medical Science in London will speedily be followed by like reforms in the provinces.

"One other question may be worthy of consideration: many members of the profession feeling that in the Medical Council but few interests are represented but those of the medical corporations, and feeling that these are not always identical with those of the great body of the profession, have set on foot a movement whereby it is sought to obtain for the profession at large a representation in that body. The question is still in its infancy; but, nevertheless, your Council feel that it involves many grave questions affecting the welfare of the profession, and they deem it well worthy of the consideration of the Association.

"Your Council desire to record their thanks to Mr. B. Dodsworth for the services he has rendered to the Branch as its President, and their regret that ill health has deprived them of the benefit and pleasure of his presence.

"Your Council cannot conclude their report, assembling as they do in the town of Sheffield, without again expressing their regret at the loss they have sustained by the death of Mr. H. Jackson, and their sympathy with their professional friends in Sheffield.

"The Council would recommend that Dr. Heaton of Leeds be elected President for the years 1868 and 1869, Leeds being, in accordance with the accustomed rotation, the next place of meeting."

Next Annual Meeting.—It was resolved, that the next annual meeting should be held at Leeds, J. D. Heaton, M.D., being the President-elect.

The Medical Council.—The following resolution, moved by Mr. HUSBAND (York), and seconded by Mr. J. WALKER (Sheffield), was, after some discussion, adopted—"That this Branch approves of the efforts now being made by the Committee of Council to procure a fair representation of the profession in the Medical Council, in the amended Bill now under consideration."

Council of the Branch.—The following members of the Association were elected to form the Council of the Branch for the ensuing year: B. Dodsworth, Esq.; W. D. Husband, Esq.; H. Keyworth, Esq.; W. Matterson, M.D.; G. Shann, M.D.; C. Williams, M.D. (York); C. Chadwick, M.D.; J. D. Heaton, M.D.; W. Hey, Esq.; S. Hey, Esq.; T. Nunneley, Esq.; S. Smith, Esq.; T. P. Teale, Esq. (Leeds); J. H. Aveling, M.D.; W. Favell, Esq.; J. C. Hall, M.D.; J. Haxworth, Esq. (Sheffield); J. Ness, Esq. (Helmley).

Representatives in the General Council.—J. C. Hall, M.D.; J. D. Heaton, M.D.; W. D. Husband, Esq.; W. Matterson, M.D.; T. Nunneley, Esq.; T. P. Teale, Esq.; C. G. Wheelhouse, Esq.; S. W. North, Esq. (secretary); were elected.

Secretary.—Mr. S. W. North of York was re-elected Secretary.

Communications.—I. Dr. GREENHOW (Leeds) read a paper on Vaccination, in which he advocated the claims of vaccination, and combated the various objections that had been, and were, urged against it. The author also made some observations on the most efficient methods for carrying out public vaccination.

2. Dr. AVELING (Sheffield) exhibited several new and modified Obstetrical Instruments; and introduced for discussion the question, Is it expedient for medical practitioners to patent surgical instruments? The author disapproved of the practice; and, after some discussion, the following resolution—moved by Dr. CHADWICK (Leeds), and seconded by Mr. NORTH (York)—was unanimously adopted—"That this meeting condemns the patenting, by any medical or surgical practitioner, of any instrument or medical preparation of which he may be the originator."

3. Mr. T. P. TEALE, jun. (Leeds), described the Endoscope, and reported several cases where the diagnosis had been materially facilitated by its use.

Votes of Thanks to the retiring President and to the authors of papers, etc., having been passed, the meeting separated.

Dinner.—Nearly forty members and visitors subsequently dined together at the Victoria Hotel.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH, 1867.

JOHN HALL DAVIS, President, in the chair.

NINETEEN gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society.

Specimens. Dr. BRUNTON exhibited a Placenta, the subject of extreme fatty degeneration. Parturition had occurred shortly after the end of the seventh month.

Dr. F. WEBB exhibited a specimen of Hydatiniform Degeneration of the Ovum.

Mr. ROBERT ELLIS exhibited a new Expanding Speculum for operations on the cervix uteri. It was, he said, a bivalve speculum of the ordinary figure, and lighter, shorter, and handier to use than any of the present instruments. Its peculiarity consisted in an extraordinary capacity for dilating the external parts without injury, so as to give the surgeon complete command over the vaginal canal and the cervix and lower part of the uterus. This was effected by the separation of the blades by means of a rack and pinion, while at the same time there was the ordinary power of expansion at the distal end of the instrument. The instrument was manufactured for the author by Messrs. Meyer and Metzler, and had, Mr. Ellis said, in his hands proved most successful in a variety of difficult operations; in its command over the vaginal canal, moreover, and in the full view of the cervix it afforded, it far surpassed the duck-bill speculum, while it dispensed with the need of an assistant.

Mr. ROBERT ELLIS also exhibited a self-holding Tenaculum, for operations on the uterus. This instrument consisted of a double hook of a peculiar curve mounted on a metal handle. In a slot up this handle a blunt hook, intended to catch over the edge of the speculum, moved to and fro by a milled screw at the bottom. The double hook was fastened into one of the lips of the cervix, and the blind hook in the handle was then screwed gently up and down until it had caught in the edge of the speculum. The cervix was thus held perfectly steady, and might even be drawn down some distance into the speculum if the screw were carefully and gently worked, without the least injury or pain.

RETENTION IN UTERO OF GREATER PORTION OF SKELETON OF A DEAD FÆTUS FOR FOUR YEARS. BY A. HALLEY, M.D.

Mrs. E. H., aged 35, always had good general health up to the time of her marriage, six years ago, with the exception of suffering from some dysmenorrhœa and occasional leucorrhœa. Three months after marriage she miscarried, and suffered from more or less uterine hæmorrhage about every fortnight for four or five months afterwards. In November 1860, she again became pregnant, and suffered from a constant discharge for six weeks; she quickened in March 1861, and was delivered of a dead child in July. She became pregnant for the third time in May 1862; quickened in August, and over-fatiguing herself at that time in the Exhibition, a discharge occurred which continued for about a month, when the membranes gave way, and fleshy masses and offensive discharges came away daily for two months more, bones occasionally passing. She now suffered for some two months from a slight discharge, but had no return of the catamenia. The discharges were occasionally offensive, and sometimes portions of bones were passed; this at last ceasing for several months. In May 1863, she consulted Dr. Churchill, of Dublin, who considered that she had probably passed all that had to pass; but in two or three months more a rib came away, with much offensive discharge, which continued up to the time of her coming under the author's care, in February 1866. She had had slight shivering on one or two occasions before passing the bones, but otherwise her health had been good. On digital examination the uterus was found large, anteverted, with shortened neck; the os slightly open; the whole giving the idea that there was some abnormal substance within. On March 9th Dr. Hall Davis saw her in consultation with Dr. Halley, and injected some warm water into the uterus, which, however, brought away only stringy shreds, with coagula of blood, and the conclusion arrived at was that without fully dilating the os nothing could be done. She subsequently returned home to the north of Ireland, and again consulted Dr. Churchill, who approved of the proposed plan of dilating the os and exploring the uterine cavity. She then came back to London to place herself under the care of Dr. Halley and Dr. Hall Davis. On May 10th, 1866, chloroform was administered, and a laminaria tent introduced and left in for twenty-four hours, a sponge tent being then substituted for twelve hours. The os being then

chase condemned properties at prices to be ascertained under the Land Clauses Consolidation Act. In the end, the resolution was withdrawn, and the first nineteen clauses of the Bill were agreed to in Committee.

Monday, August 5th.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.—Mr. SEELY called attention to the expenditure on Greenwich Hospital; contending, from a minute examination of the accounts, that the management was more costly now than before the reform under the Act of 1865—being considerably in excess of the Duke of Somerset's calculations at the time—and amounting to £33,061 (for Hospital and School), as against £28,911 for the actual maintenance of the men and boys. He asked why the audited accounts had not been laid before Parliament as required by the Act of 1865, and what had been done about the sale of the advowsons; and, in reviewing *seriatim* the establishment charges, he complained that the Controller's office was a sinecure; that there was no necessity for a Captain-Superintendent and two Lieutenants as well; that the medical establishment was too large, and the expense of repairs excessive; concluding by a resolution condemning the general expenditure of the hospital as too great, and pledging the House to reduce it.—Mr. CORRY replied that the largeness of the vote had attracted his attention when he came into office, and he had appointed a Committee, which, under the conduct of the Civil Lord, Mr. Du Cane, had been inquiring into the possibility of reducing the expenses of management ever since, but had not yet reported. Going through the various items of Mr. Seely's complaint, he admitted that in many of them the expenditure was too large, though by comparison of the charges he showed that it was not rateably higher than the cost of Haslar Hospital, and pointing out that the actual expenditure would not be as great as the estimate which was based on the assumption that there were five hundred in the hospital, whereas there were only three hundred and seventy inmates. Expressing complete confidence that it would be possible to cut down the expenditure considerably, and assuring the House that the Admiralty would take care that the Hospital was managed as economically as possible, he requested Mr. Seely not to press his motion.—Mr. CHILDERS agreed that the establishment charges could be greatly reduced, though, with regard to the school, reduction could only be obtained by lowering the character of the education, and suggested that the Admiralty should clear out the Hospital of all inmates but those who were only fit for an infirmary, and that those should be sent to Haslar.

Tuesday, August 6th.

THE METROPOLITAN POOR-LAW ACT.—Lord C. BRUCE asked the Secretary to the Poor-law Board whether the Poor-law Board intended, on or before the 29th of September next, to put into operation the 73rd section of the Metropolitan Poor-law Act, by issuing their order to every union or parish in the metropolis which was governed by a local act, so that from and after a day to be stated in such order the relief of the poor should, in every such union or parish, be administered by a board of guardians elected according to the provision of the Poor-law Acts; and if any such parishes or unions were not brought under the operation of the 73rd clause on or before the date mentioned, would they be entitled to share in the benefits of the metropolitan common poor-fund.—Mr. SCLATER-BOOTH said that the Poor-law Board had already issued orders constituting boards of guardians, under the new law, in five of the largest parishes in the metropolis which were under local acts. They were about to issue a single order, and the remaining five or six cases were under consideration, and it was expected that the arrangements would be completed by the 29th September next. But in the event of any unforeseen circumstances intervening to prevent the completion of the arrangements, such delay would in no way affect the claim of such parishes or unions to participate in the common poor fund.

THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE IN DUBLIN.—Mr. LEADER asked the Vice-President of the Committee of Council whether, in the offer to Sir Robert Kane of the post of Dean of Faculty of the College of Science in Dublin, any conditions were mentioned as to the time he was to devote to the duties of the office.—Lord R. MONTAGU said it was proposed by a minute that Sir Robert Kane, if he would devote the necessary time for constant attendance, should be appointed permanent Dean of the Faculty, and should receive an honorarium of £100 per annum. Sir Robert Kane accepted the office on those conditions, for, in his answer on the 19th of July, he said, "I trust that by zealous and assiduous attention to the duties of the office, which I now accept with pleasure, etc." This evidently had reference to the terms of the minute.

MORTALITY AND MARRIAGES (SCOTLAND.) Mr. CANDLISH moved for an address for returns of the rate of mortality in the several counties and shires in Scotland in the two decennial periods of 1841-50 and 1851-60; also in the years 1855 and 1865. Of the rate of mortality in the boroughs of Scotland for the years 1855 and 1865, and also of the districts not containing Parliamentary boroughs, and of the proportional numbers of men and women that signed the marriage register

with marks in the several counties and shires in Scotland for the years 1855 and 1865 (in the same form as and in continuation of Return No. 445 of the present Session, so far in each case as the information can be obtained. Agreed to.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on July 25th:—

Baylie, William Edward, Poole, Dorset (Charing Cross)
 Blenkinsop, Frederick Henry, Bedford (St. George's Hospital)
 Da Cunha, Joseph Gerson, Goa (Bombay School)
 Daniel, John Waterhouse, M.D., Bellevue, New York, Nova Scotia (London)
 Davies, William Richard, M.B. Lond., Carmarthen (University College)
 Dunne, James, Dunshaughlin, co. Meath (Dublin School)
 Evans, Lewis Evan, Granville Square (St. Bartholomew's)
 Gomes, Antonio Simplicio, Hong Kong (Bombay School)
 Jayakar, Atmaram Sadashiva, L.R.C.P. Lond., Bombay (Bombay School)
 Lloyd, Kenrick Morton, Holywell, Flintshire (St. Mary's)
 Lovegrove, Thomas Henry, Nottingham (St. George's)
 McClean, Edward Henry, Barbadoes (St. Bartholomew's)
 Mannings, George, Downton, near Salisbury (King's College)
 May, George Thomas, Burslem, Staffordshire (King's College)
 Mills, Walter Herbert, Cape Town (King's College)
 Pottle, Edgar George, City Road (St. Bartholomew's)
 Richardson, Charles, Leeds (Leeds School)
 Robertson, Donald William, Thornton, Yorkshire (Edinburgh School)
 Saunders, Laurence, M.D., Kingston, Canada (Leeds School)
 Stride, John, King William Street, E.C. (St. Thomas's)
 Wallace, Frederick, L.S.A., Hackney Road (Guy's)
 Worsley, Henry, Golborne, Lancashire (Dublin School)
 Yule, John Strelley Carslake, Bury, Lancashire (University College)

It is stated that only nine, out of the seventy-four candidates who presented themselves for examination during the week, failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Court, and were consequently referred to their hospital studies for the full period of six months. The examinations for the present session at the College are now closed.

BIRTH.

BROWNE. On August 8th, at Kew Green, Surrey, the wife of Charles William Browne, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On August 2nd, at St. Mary's Church, Little Brickhill, Bucks, by the Rev. Thomas Pym Williamson, M.A., vicar, assisted by the Rev. John Dent Fish, M.A., brother-in-law of the bride, curate of St. Sepulchre, Northampton, BROOME PINNIGER, Esq., of Newbury, Berks, to Harriet Anne, second daughter of SHEARMAN CHESTERMAN, Esq., Banbury, Oxon.

On August 7th, at Moreton Pinkney, Northants, the Rev. W. H. ROBERTSON, M.A., elder son of W. H. Robertson, Esq., M.D., of Buxton, to Frances Henrietta, daughter of the Rev. F. JONES, M.A., incumbent.

THE ALLEGED MURDER AT BEVERLEY.—At the resumed hearing of this case, a woman named Stones, brought from London, and who formerly resided at Beverley, deposed to having once bought tartar emetic at the shop of Mr. Luden, chemist, but that she used it all herself. Superintendent Hopkinson handed to the bench a report he had received from Dr. Letheby, professor of chemistry, in London, who had been employed to analyse certain portions of the bodies of the late John King and Mrs. King. The report stated that he had been unable to discover poison in either of the bodies. The mayor asked Mr. Sollitt, who was present, how he reconciled his opinion that death was the result of poison by antimony with that of Dr. Letheby. Mr. Sollitt stated that it was often found that men of eminence differed, and he was still of the opinion, as before, that antimony existed in the stomach, which had been sent to him for analysis. The bench, after a consultation, on the faith of Dr. Letheby's report, discharged the prisoner.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL SWIMMING CLUB. The first competition of this recently formed club took place in the Serpentine, on Tuesday, July 23rd. The distance was 500 yards. The prizes were, first, a silver cup; second, a set of studs; third, a gold pencil-case; and the fourth was composed of the entrance-fees. They were won in the following order: Mr. Grindrod, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Millson, and Mr. Butler. Mr. McKerrell, gentleman champion of the Thames, acted as umpire.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.—The tender of Messrs. Perry for the building of the new St. Thomas's Hospital, at Stangate, for the sum of £332,748 if constructed entirely of stone and red brick, and £356,780 if constructed entirely of stone, has been accepted. There were fourteen competitors, the highest tender being £382,100 for a building of stone and brick, and £400,400 for one entirely of stone. The tender of Messrs. Perry and Co. was the lowest in amount. The foundations of the building are already laid. The architect is Mr. Harry Currey.

DIMINUTION IN THE MORTALITY OF BOMBAY.—*Native Opinion* ascribes the diminution in the mortality of Bombay to the Vehar water, the establishment of dispensaries and hospitals, and the increase of native medical graduates. The natives now welcome the Vehar water, and are glad to use pipes in their houses. The writer states that the practice of bleeding regularly, at least once a year, and also for every trifling ailment, has nearly disappeared; whilst the application of blisters, which the Parsees in particular looked upon with peculiar dread, is now made with great benefit. The most marked improvement has been in the treatment of women during and after labour. The belief in ghosts and goblins, and their influence in disease, is fast disappearing. The great obstacle to this improvement is the increase of liquor shops and drunkenness.

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, BROMPTON.—A quarterly special court of the governors of this charity was held in the board-room of the hospital on Thursday, the Rev. Sir Henry Foulis, Bart., in the chair. After the usual preliminary business, the secretary read the report of the committee of management. From this it appeared that all the 210 beds in the hospital had remained fully occupied, and the out-patients' department continued to be as useful as ever. Reference had been repeatedly made in the annual report to the great increase from year to year in the number of out-patients, the new cases having risen from 3971 in 1858 to 8625 in 1866. In order to diminish the detention of the patients consequent on such large attendances many alterations had been made, and to a certain extent with an advantageous result; but the committee feeling that the only effectual remedy for the inconvenience, which was still growing, was to increase the medical staff from three assistant-physicians (as it had been since the year 1848) to "not more than six" assistant-physicians, the committee therefore recommended an alteration in the standing rules accordingly. Dr. Hamilton Roe having been appointed consulting-physician, on resigning the post of physician, which he had so ably filled for more than a quarter of a century, Dr. Burdon Sanderson had been elected to the vacancy thus created, and Dr. C. Theodore Williams had been elected to the vacant assistant-physicianship. The number of in-patients admitted since May 30th was 214; discharged, many greatly benefited, 190; died, 21; new out-patient cases, 1317. The report was unanimously approved and adopted, on the motion of the Rev. William Niven, B.D., seconded by John Colebrooke, Esq., after which, it was moved by the Rev. Sir Henry Foulis, Bart., seconded by Charles Few, Esq., and carried *nem. con.*: "That in pursuance of the recommendation of the committee of management, the number of assistant-physicians be increased to not more than six, and that the necessary alteration be made in Standing Rule, No. 4, by substituting the words 'not more than six,' for the word 'three' in line five." A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman was then passed, and the proceedings terminated.

DISEASES PRODUCED BY VEGETABLE ORGANISMS. Professor Hannon, of the University of Brussels, has lately proved that the spores of some species of fresh water algæ, at the period of their fructification, are capable of producing intermittent fever; and the observations and researches of several eminent medical authorities lead to the belief that many other diseases to which the human frame is liable have their origin in the vegetable organisms which abound in water. Some of the spores are probably thrown off into the atmosphere, and, being drawn into the lungs, are absorbed by the blood, but by far the larger portion doubtless find their way into the stomach, and so give rise to disorders of the alimentary canal. Their tenacity is said to be so great, that the temperature of boiling water is insufficient to destroy their vitality, and even beer and bread, notwithstanding the heat to which they have been subjected, in many cases show abundant evidence of the existence of these algæ. These facts furnish a strong proof of the necessity of filtering water, whether required in large quantities for the manufacture of food, or in smaller quantities for domestic purposes, and we have much pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to a mode of filtration which appears to furnish the best possible safeguard against the evils above described. The Main Service Filter, manufactured by the Silicated Carbon Filter Company, can be adapted to the supply-pipe of a brewery, distillery, or manufactory of any description, and thus purify all the water before entering the building. The value of such a method of purification will be appreciated by those who have ever seen the inside of a large cistern after having been used for some time without cleaning. The quantity of vegetable matter which covers the sides of such a cistern is astonishing, and one cannot wonder at disease being propagated by water kept in such a receptacle. Mere straining of water through animal charcoal is not sufficient to stop this vegetable matter, but the principle of the Silicated Carbon Filter is the employment of a porous slab cemented into a filtering vessel, an arrangement which effectually prevents the passage of any extraneous substance.—*Artisan.*

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 9 A.M. and 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.
TUESDAY Guy's, 1.30 P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.
WEDNESDAY St. Mary's, 2 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 Demonstrations and Operations), 1 P.M.—Royal Free, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All Letters and Communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered are requested to look to the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

Communications as to the transmission of the JOURNAL, should be sent to Mr. RICHARDS, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C.

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

EAR-PIERCING BY JEWELLERS.

GRADUALLY the public is coming to acknowledge that educated skilled labour in medicine and surgery is cheaper in the long run than hap-hazard empirical untrained performances, whose cures, if not romances, are exceptional flukes. The old practice of ear-piercing by the vendors of earrings has often given patients to the doctors, owing to the clumsy process adopted. A cold needle is screwed through the lobe of the ear, giving much pain at the time, and invariably exciting inflammation and suppuration. "Pride must feel pain," is at the same time instilled into the ears of the unfortunate victim, and the poor adolescent has to cultivate the spartan virtues. Thinking nothing too trifling for our consideration where pain is concerned, we have recently persuaded some of our fair young vestal friends to let us take the place of the jeweller; and by simply heating the needle to a red heat, it has passed almost painlessly through the lobe into the cork behind; and the earring having been adjusted and occasionally rotated, neither inflammation, suppuration, nor inconvenience of any kind has ensued. W. C.

MR. ASHTON.—The communication has been duly received, and shall be dealt with as decided.

SIR,—Is there any way to ascertain who, among the medical men in one's neighbourhood, are members of the Association? I presume it is desirable they should be enabled to recognise each other for purposes of consultation, when required. Birkenhead, July 1867. I am, etc., L. F.

* * Each Branch has its local list; and the list of members, arranged in counties, is published annually in the JOURNAL.

LIEBIG'S FOOD FOR INFANTS.

SIR,—The remarks on the above subject in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of Aug. 3rd (p. 91), induce me to suggest that some inquiry should be undertaken respecting the value, if any, of this food, before the medical journals take any part in recommending it. A great effort is being made on the part of its promoters to introduce this composition into this country; and its merits, as a substitute for maternal milk, are so doubtful, that in the interests of hand-fed children it appears to me desirable that investigation should be made, and the results reported on, in order to satisfy the public one way or the other. I am, etc., M. A. B.

SIR,—Much injustice is done the profession and imposition to the public, by chemists and dentists writing after their names the term surgeon-dentist, which may be correctly read in its simple and not its compound sense, as if they were both surgeons and dentists, thus imposing on the public. This should be met by an amendment of Clause xl. of the Medical Act, by inserting after "implying," the words "or appearing to imply". I am, etc., L. E.

MR. WYATT.—The Chairman of the Lunatic Asylums Committee of the Metropolitan Asylums Board is Chairman of Colney Hatch Asylum.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, ETC., have been received from:—

Dr. J. Braxton Hicks (with enclosure); The Registrar-General of England; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Mr. J. Z. Laurence (with enclosure); Dr. Pirrie, Aberdeen; Mr. Southam, Manchester (with enclosure); Dr. Kirkpatrick, Dublin (with enclosure); Dr. Falconer, Bath (with enclosure); Inspector-General G. R. Dartnell, Henley-in-Arden (with enclosure); L. F., Birkenhead; Dr. F. Bagshawe, Hastings; Dr. H. MacCormac, Belfast; Dr. Edward Waters, Chester; Mr. T. M. Stone, Mr. Ashton; Dr. Hermann Weber (with enclosure); Mr. A. B. Steele, Liverpool; Dr. J. B. Nevins, Liverpool; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (with enclosure); Mr. J. Horne Payne (with enclosure); Mr. F. G. Hodgson, Brighton (with enclosure); A Fellow of the College of Physicians; Dr. George Johnson; Mr. Henry Lowndes, Liverpool; Dr. G. G. Rogers; Mr. R. L. Bowles, Folkestone; Dr. Septimus Gibbon (with enclosure); Mr. Chesterman, Banbury; Dr. Robertson; Dr. H. Barnes; The Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh; Mr. Wheatley; Dr. Stokes, Dublin (with enclosure); Sir Dominic Corrigan, Dublin (with enclosure); Dr. Rogers.