

investigated by some one of our learned societies, that the profession and the country may know the true extent of this "new social evil".

I am, etc.,

W. MILSTED HARMER.

The Asylum, Hawkhurst, July 1867.

OBITUARY.

P. VICTOR BAZIRE, M.D.

IT is with unqualified and painful regret that we have to announce the death of Dr. P. Victor Bazire, Assistant-Physician of the Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, editor and translator of Trousseau's *Clinical Lectures*, and author of the Hospital Reports and Records which have appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL this year. This most able and accomplished young physician stood high in the personal estimation of his metropolitan brethren, and was acquiring a wider reputation. A few days since, he was apparently in excellent health, and his prospects in life were bright. The sad and altogether unexpected event took place suddenly during the morning of the 11th instant. Nothing had foreshadowed so awful and abrupt a termination of life, and it is still difficult fully to realise the fact. A brief period of paroxysmal pain in the head had not awakened either his own or his friends' anxiety. He regarded it so slightly as only to speak of it incidentally to his medical friends, and it had not troubled him so much as to induce him to suspend for a moment his duties. On the eve of his death, he had appeared as it were in the fullest vigour of life—all his rare, brilliant, and fascinating qualities undimmed. But in the early morning he was struck down as he left his bed; and there, on the floor of his room, when summoned to his breakfast, he was discovered insensible and dying. It is little consolation now to know that no mortal help could have availed him even in the slightest degree. A small aneurismal pouch had formed in the basilar artery. As is commonly the case with the young (and perhaps mercifully so, when no relief is practicable or possible), its growth had proceeded without probably causing a single sense of discomfort, certainly not one traceable to this source. At length, on the morning of the 11th, the pouch had given way, and flooded the sub-arachnoid space and meshes of the pia mater at the base of the brain and upper portion of the spinal cord with blood. From the fatal rupture to the cessation of life, little more than three hours probably elapsed.

Dr. Bazire was a native of Mauritius. He was educated in the Royal College of Port Louis, where he obtained the gold medal for general proficiency. In 1853 he entered University College, and in the year following he matriculated with great credit. From this time he annually took honours. In 1856 he carried off two gold and one silver medals. In 1858, he passed the second examination for M.B. in the University of London, taking honours in every branch, and receiving the gold medal for Surgery. The same year, he petitioned the University to allow him to present himself for the examination for M.D. The petition was granted; and he achieved great distinction in the clinical examination, and was recommended for a special gold medal. It was during this examination that he first exhibited proofs of that wonderful power of diagnosis which was his great characteristic professionally. In December 1858, he entered the University of Paris; and he graduated in medicine there in 1860, his thesis for the degree being on diseases of the hip-joint. Here, as in London, his scholastic career was very brilliant. In the last named year, he began the practice of his profession in Port Louis, Mauritius; and he quickly afterwards received a valuable appointment in the Civil Hospital of that city. In 1862, he lost his wife from cholera. This painful event appears to have inspired him with disgust for his native island; and he returned, with his children, two in number, to Europe, and settled in London. Here he held in succession the appointments of Medical Registrar of the Westminster Hospital, and Assistant-Physician of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic. His writings were limited to the thesis already mentioned, a few clinical contributions to this and other journals, and the translation and annotation of a part of Trousseau's *Clinical Lectures*. Few as are his published works, they amply show the rare qualities of observation and culture which he possessed. Especially may be noted, in this respect, a paper on Paralysis of the Diaphragm (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1867); his note, with reports of cases, appended to the translation of Trousseau's lecture on Progressive Locomotor Ataxy; and some of the valuable introductory summaries and historical commentaries with which he prefaced the Hospital Records of this JOURNAL.

Medicine has lost much by Dr. Bazire's untimely death. He was just beginning to unfold his admirable knowledge in the behoof of the

profession when he was cut off. He had barely indicated the rarity and richness of his promise when death stepped in. Words can only coarsely outline the large grief of so great a loss.

MEDICAL NEWS.

THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL AND THE ST. PANCRAS GUARDIANS.

THE Board of the Royal Free Hospital have offered to let to the Guardians of St. Pancras a portion of the buildings of the hospital for 150 of the inmates of the workhouse, but the Guardians would have to fit up the buildings. The Board resolved to accept the offer if the terms could be agreed upon. We hope that the unpaid medical officers of the hospital will not undertake the treatment of any of the pauper sick. This is a state duty: it must be properly paid, and hospital medical officers should not interfere to take it out of the hands of the Poor-law medical officers. We view any *rapprochement* between voluntary hospitals for the non-pauperised poor and of the workhouse infirmaries with great suspicion. We have hitherto strongly and successfully opposed any such confusion as highly detrimental to the state and to the profession. We trust that the medical officers of the Royal Free Hospital will not lend themselves to any meddling with the duties of Poor-law medical officers at all,—far less to any gratuitous treatment of the poor who are accepted as a charge upon the state, and towards whose maintenance we all contribute in common with other citizens.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The following passed the Preliminary Scientific M.B. Examination, 1867.

First Division.

Aveling, Edward B. (private study)	Gibbins, A. T., King's College
Ball, J. B., University College Hosp.	Harris, J. A., University of Edinburgh
*Barff, F. S. (student before 1839), University College	Harris, Michael, Guy's Hospital
Bruce, J. M., M.A. Aberd., University of Aberdeen	Haynes, H. Eyre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Burn, Wm. B., St. Barthol. Hospital	Hunt, Thomas Henry, Manchester
Carter, C. H., University College	Royal School of Medicine
Elkington, E. A., Sydenham College, Birmingham	Saunders, Arthur Richard, University College
	Wall, Alfred John, St. Mary's Hospital

Second Division.

Bindley, Philip H., Sydenham College, Birmingham	Male, H. D., St. Thomas's Hospital
Burgess, W. F. R., Guy's Hospital	Paget, W. S., Liverpool School of Med.
Carr, Wm. Ward, University College	Perkins, C. E. S., Guy's Hospital
Carter, A. H., University College	Pipette, Walter, Westminster Hosp.
Cotterill, Alfred, King's College	Pughe, Rhinalt Navalw ap Joan (private study)
Coupland, Sidney, University College	Ralli, A. A., St. Bartholomew's Hosp.
Cross, Francis R., King's College	Rayner, John A., King's College
De Méric, Henry E., King's College	Rowland, G. Le Hunt, King's College
Edwards, John E., Guy's Hospital	Rugg, B. A., University College
Fox, Thomas C., University College	Simon, M. F., St. Thomas's Hospital
Franklin, G. C., St. Thomas's Hospital	Sloman, S. G., St. Barthol. Hospital
Graham, J. C., University College	Smith, A. Wm., Guy's Hospital
Herman, George E., London Hospital	Southee, Henry E., (private tuition)
Ingoldby, J. T., Guy's Hospital	Taunton, W. W., University College
Jones, Thomas, Guy's Hospital	Waddy, Henry E., Guy's Hospital
Lowe, W. G., St. Bartholomew's Hosp.	Williams, W. H., University College
Lyell, Robert W., King's College	Williams, William, Guy's Hospital

First M.B. Examination, 1867. Entire. Pass Examination.

First Division.

Flowers, Wm. Field, Guy's Hospital	Rayner, E. B.A., University College
Gowers, W. R., University College	Roberts, R. L., University College
Pollard, F., St. Thomas's Hospital	Thomas, John D., University College

Second Division.

Baines, Albert Henry, Guy's Hospital	Hoar, Charles Edward, King's College
Baxter, Evan Buchanan, King's College	McGill, Arthur Fergusson, King's College
Black, J. G., Coll. of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne	Price, William, University College
Dessé, Ethelrid, University College	Samuel, Richard, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Dukes, Clement, St. Thomas's Hospital	Snow, Herbert Lumley, University College, and Queen's Birmingham
Hall, Francis De Havilland, St. Bartholomew's Hospital	

Excluding Physiology.

First Division.

Stock, James Reginald, Guy's Hospital

Second Division.

Colson, Edward, Guy's Hospital	Scott, William Joseph, University College
Joubert de la Ferté, Charles Henry, St. Mary's Hospital	Vachell, Charles T., King's College

Physiology only.

First Division.

Aveling, Charles Taylor, St. Thomas's Hospital	Hurlstone, A. P., University College
	Yeo, Isaac Burney, King's College

ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, EDINBURGH: DOUBLE QUALIFICATION.—The following gentlemen passed their first professional examinations during the recent sittings of the examiners.

Bentham, Robert, London
 Corry, George, Northampton
 Dalgaurns, Alfred E., Madras
 Henderson, W. A., Edinburgh
 Innes, Robert, Aberlour
 Kearney, Ambrose Bodkin, co. Galway
 Malcolm, Donald, Wick

Morrison, William French, Aberdeen
 Norman, John William, Carlisle
 Sage, Richard Ramsay, Ross-shire
 Sime, Robert, Edinburgh
 Thomson, Alexander, Glasgow
 Thomson, Thomas Smith, Edinburgh

The following gentlemen passed their final examinations, and were admitted L. R. C. P. Edinburgh and L. R. C. S. Edinburgh.

Anderson, Alex., Lake Superior
 Beck, Frederick Emmet, Belfast
 Berwick, James, St. Andrew's
 Bligh, John William, Quebec
 Burke, Michael, Galway
 Campbell, William John, Poonagh
 Cunningham, John D., Edinburgh
 Dewar, John, Glasgow
 Dickson, William, Berwickshire
 Dyer, Alexander Kidd, Edinburgh
 Elliot, George Stanley, Exeter
 Gray, Robert, Dundee
 Gunning, James Davis, Stranorlar
 Hooper, Marshall, Sevenoaks

Jennings, John, Skibbereen
 Lawrence, Henry M., co. Londonderry
 Leonard, John, co. Cork
 Macdonald, Alexander Dall, Dysart
 Macdonald, Roderick, Skye
 Macmullen, Richard, co. Dublin
 Macnamara, Laurence John, Dublin
 Menzies, Douglas Donald Cameron, New Amsterdam
 Mitra, Mat Lal, Calcutta
 Norman, Edward Jalcott, New Orleans
 Smith, Frederick, London
 Unwin, John Brooke, Lewes
 Vaughan, Jeremiah, Broadford

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, EDINBURGH.—The following gentlemen passed their first professional examinations during the recent sittings of the examiners.

Dowdall, Edward, Newry
 Shaw, Charles Wm., Castle Blayney

Smith, Thomas Sommerville, London

The following gentlemen passed their final examinations, and were admitted Licentiates of the College.

Barry, John, Cork
 Crichton, Alexander, Edinburgh
 Crombie, Alexander, Fifehire
 Dunlop, James Clarke, Lisburne
 Dunsmure, James, Edinburgh

Fleming, Robt. Gage, co. Londonderry
 Fraser, Wm. Halliday, Canada West
 Hickey, Thomas Canning, Galway
 Lawrence, Alexander, Forfarshire
 Macnair, Robert, Lintithgow

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—On Thursday, August 8th, 1867, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Adams, John Edward, Victoria Road, Charlton (St. Thomas's Hospital)
 Adcock, Charles, Stafford Street, Birmingham (Queen's College, Birmingham)
 Gill, Henry Clifford, Bartholomew Road, Kentish Town (University Coll. Hosp.)
 King, Henry Kirwan, 159, Camberwell Road (Guy's Hospital)
 Lazenby, John Reuben, Long Preston, Yorkshire (Leeds School of Medicine)
 Morrill, Arthur Horatio, Newington Butts (Guy's Hospital)
 Newstead, Charles Henry, 25, Bartholomew Close (St. Bartholomew's Hospital)
 Penfold, Oliver, Blackmoor Street, W. C. (King's College Hospital)
 Pratt, John Wyatt, Bradford, Yorkshire (St. Mary's Hospital)
 Roberts, Thomas Andrew, Shaftesbury, Dorset (St. Mary's Hospital)
 White, James Robert, Kent County Hospital, Maidstone (University, Dublin)

At the same Court, the following passed the first examination:—

Budd, Samuel Punnett, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Gould, Henry, Guy's Hospital
 Hackney, Alfred Henry, University College Hospital
 Tuck, John, Guy's Hospital

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.—The Director-General presents his compliments to the Editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, and begs to enclose a list of the candidates of Her Majesty's British Service, who were successful at the competitive examination in February last, and who have passed through a course at the Army Medical School, shewing the combined results of the examination.

Name.	Studied at.	Marks.	Name.	Studied at.	Marks.
Bredon, R. E.	Dublin ..	5570	Parkinson, R. C. ...	London ..	3397
O'Reilly, T.	Dublin ..	4753	Moore, J. H.	Belfast ..	3293
Fairland, E.	London ..	4620	Irving, G. C.	Dublin ..	3290
Murphy, R. P.	Dublin ..	4370	Tolmie, T. C.	Glasgow ..	3268
Townsend, E.	Cork ..	4238	Wade, N.	Dublin ..	3262
O'Reilly, J.	Dublin ..	4060	Roche, A. W.	Dublin ..	3240
Wheeler, W. J.	Dublin ..	3816	Purcell, G. C.	Dublin ..	3163
O'Flynn, D. J.	Cork ..	3715	Croker, J. R.	Dublin ..	3026
Olden, D. L.	Dublin ..	3683	Morgan, J. W.	Dublin ..	2905
Williams, J.	London ..	3608	McAlevy, R. P.	Belfast ..	2662
Cogan, T. S.	Dublin ..	3525	Holmes, T. J. R.	Dublin ..	2574
Supple, J. F.	Dublin ..	3478	Kilroy, M. A.	Dublin ..	2435

THE EXCURSION TO THE BOYNE.—An interesting souvenir of the recent visit of the Association to Dublin has been published by Mr. C. Farley, the photographic artist of Drogheda, who has succeeded in taking, in two groups, those members of the Association who accompanied Sir William Wilde to the scenes of the Battle of the Boyne. One represents the members about to explore the great tumulus of New Grange; the other gives us the party in front of the castle seat of the Marquis of Conyngham, the last residence in Ireland visited by an English king. Considering the great difficulty of grouping upwards of sixty members of the Association, Mr. Farley has succeeded very well in his interesting work. They can be obtained on application to the artist at an expense of half-a-crown each.

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.

SIR,—Please inform me in your next issue if the following proceeding, on the part of an associate, is in keeping with established medical etiquette? The associate compiles a small pamphlet on a subject connected with indigestion. Is it professional for him to present copies of this pamphlet to a public reading-room and literary institute in the town in which he practises? I am, etc., A PHYSICIAN.
 ** The practice is at least undesirable and not to be imitated.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING.

SIR,—It will doubtless cause surprise that any one should be found bold enough to prefer an indictment of mismanagement against those who were responsible for the arrangements of the late meeting in Dublin. It is, however, with no censorious feeling, but, on the contrary, from a sincere desire to advance the interests of our Association, that I venture to take exception to certain matters of detail, in which the miscarriage, although not sufficient to mar the magnificence of this truly splendid and most delightful anniversary, nevertheless materially diminished, in certain respects, the individual enjoyment of many of our associates, who, at the sacrifice of time and convenience, travelled from distant parts to join in the scientific and social feast so munificently provided by our hospitable and accomplished Irish medical brethren. In the midst of feelings of pride and self-gratulation at the general success of our first meeting in Ireland, it may be well to remember the humiliating reflection of the poet—

Oh wad some power the giftie gie us,
 To see ourselves as others see us,
 It wad frae mony a blunder free us
 And foolish notion.

In such a spirit, and with the hope that, by directing attention to the alleged objections, they may be avoided for the future, I proceed to give my own impressions of certain errors of commission and omission which characterised the proceedings on the occasion in question. I would observe generally, that certain innovations in the stereotyped programme, in themselves decidedly advantageous, proved entirely abortive, from the inevitable want of administrative capacity which has evinced itself at previous meetings, and which appears to have gone with us to Dublin.

The plan, now for the first time adopted, of dividing the scientific business into sections, must be regarded as an admirable device for facilitating the progress of that department; but this advantage was more than counterbalanced by confusion and want of proper arrangement. It was, I am informed, intended that only certain sections should sit, and that no two subjects of more than common interest should be taken, at the same time. This wise provision was ignored; and, consequently, valuable communications were withheld from many of those present, from the impossibility of being in two places at the same moment.

The notice-papers, exhibited at the entrance of the section chambers, purporting to inform inquirers what particular subject was under discussion, would have been very useful, if the simple precaution had not been omitted of changing the announcements, in accordance with the progress of the papers.

The so-called "Journal of Proceedings" would have proved highly interesting, as a means of ascertaining the daily progress of business, if, instead of a mere reprint of the original programme, they had really contained ever so brief account of what had transpired from day to day. In the face of a heavy debt to the Treasurer, I regard this expenditure for printing perfectly valueless documents, a reckless waste of our funds. As I was unable to attend the first meeting, I am, owing to the imperfection of this so-called Journal, left in complete ignorance as to what was the fate of a most important item in the Report of Council; namely, the future course proposed in reference to the Charter Subcommittee.

It is, I think, much to be regretted that the Committee of Council, with such a long experience, should, year after year, fail in devising any plan for securing the satisfactory conduct of the business details of our meetings; and this subject increases in importance, as the Association becomes extended and enlarged. It may be, that the General Secretary, upon whose personal attention the success of these matters so materially depends, has already more work on his hands than he can thoroughly master; and, if this be so, it is worthy of consideration whether some assistance should not be given him, rather than subject ourselves to the annual annoyance of failure and mismanagement.
 I am, etc.,
 Liverpool, August 1867.
 A. B. STEELE.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements should be forwarded direct to the Printing-Office, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C., addressed to Mr. Richards, not later than *Thursday*, twelve o'clock.

F.R.C.P.—We cannot say at how many of the metropolitan clubs the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL** is taken, because many clubs order JOURNALS through their booksellers. It is, however, supplied from the office to the Athenæum, Reform, Junior United Service, Carlton, Conservative, Civil Service, and Oxford and Cambridge; also to the Poor-Law Board, General Register Office, Foreign Office, and other public offices.

BIBLIOPOL will find both the works of John of Gaddesden and John Arden in the Library of the College of Surgeons.

REGISTRATION OF DISEASES.

SIR,—I observe that the valuable suggestion in your number for May 18th, of a report of the prevalence of diseases in the kingdom, has met with no response, notwithstanding your invitation. Ten years ago, and again two years subsequently, I drew the attention of the profession to it in the columns of one of your contemporaries (*Lancet*, May 23rd, 1857, p. 542; and April 9th, 1859, p. 370), and have since tried to induce members of the profession to forward some such work. But in vain; the thing involves trouble, but no personal advantage; and when such is the case, a project is not readily taken up. Nevertheless, men of enlarged views, like Dr. Farr, Dr. Crompton, Dr. Richardson, and some others, have not shrunk from advocating the plan; and it surely cannot be consigned, without another effort, to oblivion. An annual report of prevalent diseases would be a piece of medical history—valuable, doubtless, for reference. But we might have a report of a different kind, published weekly in your JOURNAL, if you thought fit, where it would occupy twenty-three lines across a page, and would show the busy medical practitioner the prevalent diseases of his own and other registration districts within ten or twelve days of the time when he read the results, so that they might be a guide and help to him in his practice. Surely, such a report must be concise, strictly confined to its true object, the registration of prevalent diseases; and it must be simple, or it never will be steadily written, and short, or it will not be read. Your JOURNAL containing it would become a record of the prevalence of diseases, both for the week and for the year, both for immediate guidance and for reference when placed on our bookshelves. I propose that the weekly return should be in the following form.

Specimen of proposed Abstract of Weekly Returns, prepared for publication.

New cases of disease registered in the eleven districts of England and Wales, for the week ending Tuesday, the _____ of _____, 1867.

	London.	S.-East. Counties.	S.-Mid. Counties.	Eastern Counties.	S.-West. Counties.	W.-Mid. Counties.	N.-Mid. Counties.	N.-West. Counties.	Yorkshire.	Northern Counties.	Wales and Monmouth.
No. of medical men returning											
No. of Institutions returning											
Small-pox											
Chicken-pox											
Measles											
Scarlatina											
Whooping-cough											
Croup											
Diarrhoea											
Dysentery											
Cholera											
Ague											
Continued Fever											
Rheumatic Fever											
Erysipelas											
Delirium Tremens											
Insanity											
Bronchitis and Catarrh											
Diphtheria											
Pleurisy											
Pneumonia											
Puerperal Fever											
Pyæmia											
Carbuncle and Boils											
All other Diseases											

Here the returns from England and Wales would be stated in eleven columns, answering to the eleven districts mapped out by the Registrar-General. The weekly details would come from such medical men in each district as would take the slight trouble necessary to assist in the work, by filling up and forwarding a return like the following, on a set day every week, to some one appointed to tabulate them.

Specimen of proposed Weekly Return, to be sent in from each Practitioner, Hospital, or Dispensary, contributing.

New cases of disease observed in the practice of _____, for the week ending _____ day, the _____ of _____, 1867.

Small-pox	Cholera	Diphtheria
Chicken-pox	Ague	Pleurisy
Measles	Continued Fever	Pneumonia
Scarlatina	Rheumatic Fever	Pyæmia
Whooping-cough	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever
Croup	Delirium Tremens	Boils and Carbuncle
Diarrhoea	Insanity	Other Diseases
Dysentery	Bronchitis and Catarrh	

(Each new case of disease occurring in the week to be indicated by a mark, thus, opposite its name—e.g., Small-pox, I; Diarrhoea, II.III.)

The success of the whole plan would depend on the voluntary action of a sufficient number of gentlemen to make up and send in the weekly returns. Of course, we know that many would slight or disregard the scheme, as not promising them any personal advantage or credit; but their inaction need not vitiate it. For if only one hundred returns came in from each of the eleven districts, there would be eleven hundred returns every week to furnish results to the profession; and fresh adherents to the plan would be gained, when it appeared (as it most certainly

would) that the general good was promoted without mischief to any individual or locality, and at a small cost. The printed forms required annually might fairly be done, like the returns of the Registrar-General, at the public expense, each return bearing at the back such words as "On Her Majesty's Service" (for so, indeed, it would be), to frank it through the post. The printing, circulating, loss of postage to the revenue on returns sent post free, and cost of tabulating the returns in a form ready for insertion, would be less expensive than might be supposed. The first communication to members of the profession, to secure adherents to the work, and to find out those willing to aid, might be done through existing machinery, without much expense.

I forbear to trouble you with further details, or to answer possible objections; but am prepared to do both, if called on. The coldness of many, and the trouble of adjusting the needful arrangements, and of surmounting difficulties, ought never to stand in the way of this work, if it be considered by competent men to be one worth doing.

I am, etc., W. E. C. NOURSE, F.R.C.S.

Marlborough Place, Brighton, July 1867.

DR. F. J. BROWN (Rochester).—The communication was received, and shall have due attention.

THE DEBATE IN THE SOCIÉTÉ DE LA CHIRURGIE AT PARIS ON THE NON-MERCURIAL TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS.

SIR,—Your Paris correspondent (*JOURNAL*, July 6th) sums up the debate in the Surgical Society of Paris (*Gazette Hôpitaux*, May and June) on the question of the treatment of syphilis. I trust that it will not be long before we attempt in London to imitate the excellent example there given us. This debate has continued for many weeks, and each speaker has had as long a time given to him as he desired to make out his case; in this respect, making the debate closely resemble those with which we are all so familiar in our Houses of Parliament. As your Parisian correspondent says, M. Dolbeau, the speaker who began the discussion, is entirely opposed to the treatment of syphilis by mercury, asserting, like many of us—such as Syme, Boeck, Weeden Cooke, myself, and others—that all its boasted effects are only to be found in the imaginations of its admirers; and are not real facts in nature—i.e., that it has no power to prevent secondary eruptions, or to cure these, when they do appear; whilst, having a decided effect in lowering the vital powers, and thus rendering the system more powerless against the formidable inroads of the disease, they object to its use altogether, until some more scientifically conducted experiments should be made to establish its use, which, however, I believe will never again be made.

M. Deprès, a gentleman of the highest character as a scientific physician, and whose experience as physician to the Lourcine Hospital for venereal female patients has given him ample opportunities for observation, follows M. Dolbeau as a speaker; and, in my humble opinion, completely overthrows M. Ricord and his school of mercurialists, by the narration of a perfect host of cases where mercury used for six or eight months, or even far longer, had utterly failed to do anything towards removing syphilitic symptoms; and by giving in his entire adherence to the treatment of the disease, after the manner recommended by Syme, etc.; namely, by tonics and topical applications.

Iodide of potassium is the only medicament now recommended by these gentlemen, and this only for tertiary symptoms. The main point, however, is that, as M. Venot says in a poem in the *Presse Médicale* recently, among many of the young doctors of Paris, "Le mercure est mort."

I am, etc.,

CHARLES DRYSDALE, M.D.

DR. MARCET.—The correction shall be made.

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

Dr. F. Kirkpatrick, Dublin; Dr. Wardell, Tunbridge Wells (with enclosure); The Director-General of the Army Medical Department (with enclosure); Dr. James Palfrey (with enclosure); Mr. R. W. Dunn (with enclosure); Dr. R. A. Warwick, Richmond (with enclosure); Dr. Frederick J. Brown, Rochester; The Registrar of the University of London (with enclosure); Mr. Harry Leach; A Physician; Mr. G. V. Abbott; Mr. Lowndes, Liverpool (with enclosure); Dr. Henry Charles Andrews (with enclosure); Dr. A. Linton Boyle, Hay; Dr. Michael Foster, Huntingdon; Mr. F. Ouvry; Mr. J. De Courcy Young; Sir James Simpson; Dr. Henry Bennet (with enclosure); Mr. William Bowman (with enclosure); Mr. Holman, Reigate (with enclosure); Mr. A. B. Steele, Liverpool; Dr. Lalor, Dublin; Dr. W. V. Bird, Liverpool; Mr. H. T. Bryant, Colonial Office; Dr. A. E. Sansom (with enclosure); Dr. Protheroe Smith (with enclosure); Mr. T. M. Stone; Mrs. M. A. Baines (with enclosure); Dr. H. MacCormac, Belfast; Professor Redwood; Dr. Mapother, Dublin (with enclosure); Miss Isabel Thorn; Mr. Gorham, Sans Souci, Yoxford; Mr. Tweedie; Dr. L. Sedgwick; Dr. J. R. Realey, Gosport; Dr. John Chapman; Dr. Althaus; Mr. Maunder (with enclosure); Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson (with enclosure); Dr. Roch (with enclosure); Dr. A. Guye, Amsterdam; Professor Polli; Dr. Barbier-Dubourg, Paris; Dr. Cruise, Dublin; Dr. Lomas; Mr. Mivart, Bangor; Mr. T. W. Williams; Mr. Moore; Dr. Fraser; the Editor of the *Southern Medical Journal*; the Editor of the *American Journal of Medical Science*; the Registrar-General of Ireland; the Registrar-General of England; Mr. Bywater (with enclosure); Dr. W. Johnson; Dr. Shenwin, Cork.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

A Treatise on the Function of Digestion; its Disorders and their Treatment. By F. W. Pavy, M.D., F.R.S. London: 1867.
The Nervous System. By Ludovic Hirschfeld, Doctor of Medicine, etc. Edited in English by A. M. Macdougall. Part II. London: 1867.
Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Parish of St. Mary, Islington, during the year 1866. By Edward Ballard, M.D. London: 1867.
Physical and Medical Climate and Meteorology of the Western Coast of Africa. By James Africanus B. Horton, M.D., Staff-Assistant-Surgeon of H.M.'s Forces in West Africa. London: 1867.
Report of the Cholera Epidemic of 1866, as treated in the Mater Misericordia Hospital, Dublin. By Drs. Hayden and Cruise. Dublin: 1867.
Unhealthy Skin; its Prevention and Management: a Popular Treatise on Cutaneous Hygiene. By Balmano Squire, M.B. London: 1867.
The Dublin Express, August 12th.