

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### WEST SOMERSET BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE autumnal meeting of the above Branch was held at Clarke's Castle Hotel, on September 18th, at 5 P.M.; C. H. CORNISH, Esq., the President, occupied the Chair. Ten members were present.

*Cases, etc.*—After dinner, the following cases, presenting each some peculiar points of interest, were communicated.

1. A Case of Fractured Pelvis. By Dr. T. Elmes.
2. A Case of Comminuted Fracture of the Neck of the Femur: Preparation exhibited. By W. Liddon, M.B.
3. A Case of Injury by a Pitchfork. By R. Nash, Esq.
4. A Case of Wounded Trachea. By F. J. Parsons, Esq.
5. Cases of Dyspepsia and Heartburn. By H. W. Randolph, Esq.
6. Cases of Sudden Death in Puerperal Women. By C. H. Cornish, Esq.

In the discussion which arose on Mr. Randolph's cases of Dyspepsia and Heartburn, Mr. H. W. Axford stated his belief that the abuse of tea amongst the poor was a fruitful source of this common form of indigestion. He recommended tea to be entirely discontinued, and cocoa and milk and water substituted. He gave at the same time small doses of strychnine in solution; the liquor strychnizæ of the new *Pharmacopœia* was a very convenient form.

The subject of giving certificates of the cause of death was commented on by Messrs. Winterbotham, Randolph, and others. While fully recognising the value of a correct registration, the meeting was of opinion that an unfair pressure was put on medical men to give certificates, which ought to be resisted; and that if such certificates were required by law, that the legislature should provide an adequate payment for the same.

Some points of professional etiquette were also discussed; and the advantage of these Branch meetings was exemplified by some members who had unknowingly been attending the same patient, making mutual explanations, and coming to a right understanding; which, had they not met together, would probably never have taken place.

After a very pleasant evening, the members separated at half-past ten o'clock.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE CONSTITUTION OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

SIR,—As your columns are open to the discussion of the alteration in the constitution of the Medical Council proposed at the late meeting of the British Medical Association in Dublin, I beg leave to say a few words on the subject.

I was present at the meeting where Mr. Husband and Dr. Stewart so ably and energetically advocated their respective views; and I was convinced that the latter was perfectly right in objecting to an increase in the number of the members of the Council; but, at the same time, it appeared to me that both gentlemen laboured under a misconception of the legitimate functions of the Medical Council when they coincided in the "desirableness of a direct representation of the profession" in that body. The Council was never designed by the legislature to represent the interests of the profession; it was founded for the promotion of the interests of the public. And it is my belief that the legislature never cared, and never will care, one straw for the private or personal interests of the medical profession, or of any other profession, as such. In the eye of the legislature, the Medical Council, as well as all the licensing medical institutions, exist only for one object—namely, the good of the public. At least, this is the theory of their existence. We grumble because the Crown, the Universities, and the various Colleges and Halls of Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, are "represented" on the Medical Council, whilst the great body of medical practitioners is not so "represented". Herein we err. There is no representation, properly so called, of any of those corporations. The state, or the legislature, desirous of ensuring an adequate supply of efficient and well-educated medical men (for the benefit of the public, be it remembered), establishes a special Council for the purpose; and, taking for granted that the Universities and Medical Faculties are the most suitable parties to be consulted in the matter, the State asks each of them to select one of its body to be a member of this Council; the Crown appointing a few eminent physicians to complete the number, and the whole Council being necessarily composed of medical men. I do not stop to inquire whether this is, or is not, the best possible constitution of a Medical Council. My present object is merely to show that in the Council, such as it is, the Crown, the Universities, and the Colleges are not "represented" for their own

individual interests. Their nominees meet to consult for the interests of the public.

This, then, being the theory of the constitution of the Council, why should we complain that the interests of the profession are not "represented", seeing that they were never meant to be represented? If we are wise, we shall keep our individual interests in the background, and endeavour to prove (through the medium of the Council, the Association, and the press) that it is *for the interest of the public* that every physician and surgeon should be an educated and accomplished gentleman. Convince the legislature of this truth, and our proper position in society is secured.

I am, etc., EDWARD BEWLEY.

Edington, Clara, King's Co., September 1867.

SIR,—As one of the expositors of medical opinion, I venture to state in answer to Dr. Stewart, that the registered practitioner will consider no number of medical councillors too numerous that will efficiently, fully, and justly carry out the great principle of representation in our medical Parliament. It entirely depends upon the standpoint from which the Medical Council is viewed, whether or not its present size is deemed satisfactory or the reverse. If the Medical Council is to remain a close borough, or to degenerate into a milch cow for a few favoured officials, then it is extremely clear that the officials should be reduced to a minimum. If, however, the Medical Council is a representative body, every class that is entitled to a representative must send one, or the principle of representation is not carried out.

The House of Commons consists of nearly seven hundred members, yet the debates and divisions of that august assembly are carried on with ease and businesslike precision; and I cannot suppose that a few members more or less in our small medical parliament can paralyse our medical machinery.

Parliament is divided into two parties—the Government party, and the Opposition. Of the former, but a few officials are paid; while the great bulk of M.P.s are unpaid for their services. Doctors work gratuitously *usque ad nauseam* for the public. Will they do nothing for each other? There must be a few well-paid officials in our Medical Council; but there is no reason why ordinary members of Council, not "in office", should receive *douceurs*. Let the profession demand from the public a fair day's wage for a fair day's work, and there then need be no lack of "independent members" in the Medical Council.

I am, etc., THE EDITOR OF THE MEDICAL MIRROR.  
September 1867.

### THE HEALTH AND WATER-SUPPLY OF CROYDON.

SIR,—In addition to the protest you have already published in reply to "Croydonian", I send you a letter from the registrar of the district, stating that the death-rate for this present quarter is a trifle under 15; also a copy of the mortality tables published by the Local Board, by which you will see that the mortality for the quarter ending June was 16.97, the town districts being 15.68 only. I also forward a letter from the clerk to the Board of Guardians, written at the desire of the Board, informing me that no fever existed at all among the poor of the parish. I also wish to draw your attention to the ages of those who have died within the quarter. Of the 192 deaths, 61 were of children under two years of age, and 57 of persons over sixty, leaving 74 deaths for the period of life between those ages. The published tables show a gradually increasing percentage of mortality at the beginning and at the end of life—at the beginning, for the number of births has enormously increased; and at the end, for the people live longer. Thus, in 1848, the deaths under two years were 22.3; in 1867, 31.7. The deaths above sixty in 1848 were 16.5; in 1867, they have risen to 29.7; whilst the deaths of persons between those periods of life have decreased from 61.3 to 38.5 per cent.

"Croydonian" states that the "sewers are notoriously imperfectly ventilated". This is not correct. The Croydon Local Board have been the pioneers of the system of pipe-sewers. The parish suffered from the ignorance of early sanitary reformers upon this point, and the Local Board have had to work out the problem of ventilation for themselves. As a member of the Board, I have, together with my medical colleague, Dr. Sutherland, prevailed upon the Board to carry out an efficient plan of ventilation; and a bye-law is in force, by which every new house is compelled to have a proper ventilator. We cannot compel the owners or occupiers of houses built before the adoption of the rule to comply with it. We recommend it, and most persons have adopted it for their own protection. In 1865, the Board spent £1,000 in ventilating the public sewers by charcoal-baskets in ventilating shafts. They are placed on all the mains at intervals, and at the ends of most of the sewers; and, since the insertion of those ventilators upon the public sewers, acute disease in Croydon has become rare. Instances, however, do still occur in which

houses built by speculative builders, in spite of our supervision, are defective in their private arrangements. That, however, ought not to be made the foundation of a charge against a public board anxious to do its duty.

The complaint of your correspondent regarding water-supply is well founded; it was constant, it has become intermittent, but it will be shortly constant again. Our works were originally designed for 20,000 people; that number has most rapidly developed into nearly 50,000, really in most part caused by the success of the operations of the local board. It has been impossible to suddenly provide immense engines, water-towers, and subsidiary works, without despotic power as well as pecuniary means at instant command. The Local Board had neither; they have had to contend with great difficulties, and at this moment have conquered. The handbill enclosed will show that the Local Board have always determined upon a constant supply. Your correspondent should know that they are not endowed with a conjuror's power.

When the Local Board was first established, they recommended the abolition of cisterns for dietetic use; but since it has appeared that the constant supply may in practice occasionally become intermittent, they have insisted that water-closets shall have cisterns attached to them on a self-flushing principle; this rule applied to new houses only, and every house built since 1865 has such a cistern. We cannot compel the applications in houses built before the bye-law was made. We can only recommend it, and I suspect that Croydonian took a house that was defective on this point as well as in its ventilating arrangement. Surely these are not faults to be laid to the charge of the Local Board, but to that of the owner.

I also beg most positively to contradict the statement of your correspondent that in our Board extravagance rules supreme. It is the cry here of the anti-sanitarian. We have spent money, it is true, with a free hand, believing that good work is wise economy. Our sanitary works are bearing their fruit in a death rate under 17 against 26 in 1848. We have a perfectly pure and most abundant supply of water, only limited by our pumping and storing power (now supplying 45 gallons per head per day); we have purchased and improved 36 acres of land as a recreation ground for the people; we have provided public baths at 2d. each, frequented by thousands of bathers; we have erected slaughter-houses, and prohibited the formation of new private ones (we cannot close the old ones); and, lastly, we have solved the difficult question of what to do with our sewage in spite of the legal difficulties which might have appalled even the editor of a journal. We have shown that irrigation, when carried out on scientific principles, enables Local Boards to dispose of their sewage without fouling the water-courses of our country, and yet producing a positive gain to the agriculturist as well as to the ratepayer. We have abundant evidence to prove that fields may be so managed as to be perfectly free from danger to a near neighbourhood.

The Croydon Local Board have done all these things in spite of the outcry of ignorant men and others who do not like paying for sanitary advantages. Our rates this past year are heavier than usual by reason of two circumstances, not sanitary or medical, but still they are not higher than our neighbours', who have not the privilege or advantages of Croydon sewers and Croydon water. I think, sir, I have proved sufficient to show that the Croydon Local Board of Health is not such an imbecile body as your correspondent would lead the members of the Association to infer from, I suppose, imperfect knowledge of his subject.

I am, etc.,

ALFRED CARPENTER, M.D.

Croydon, Sept. 1867.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—Mr. Cock, one of the Vice-Presidents of the College, has just presented to the library a large number of manuscripts bequeathed to him by the late Sir Astley Cooper; and Mr. Charles Hawkins has presented two volumes of manuscript lectures on Surgery by the late Sir Benjamin Brodie, delivered by him in 1808-9; and two volumes of manuscript lectures delivered by Sir Everard Home in 1810, and reported by Dr. Nicholl. The library will re-open on Tuesday, October 1st.

DEATH FROM CHLORODYNE.—Elizabeth Saunders, Harleston, Norfolk, has been poisoned by chlorodyne. She complained that she was suffering from diarrhoea. Mrs. Arnold gave her a dose of chlorodyne, which had, as she thought, been prepared for her son, but which, it turned out, was undiluted. On discovering her mistake, Mrs. Arnold sent for Saunders, and gave her some antimony as an antidote. She was, however, left to go on her way, and was found, between ten and eleven o'clock, in a water-closet in the town, in a state of unconsciousness, and died at ten o'clock at night. An inquest was held on Monday morning, before Mr. H. E. Garrod, deputy coroner, when a verdict of "Accidental death from an overdose of chlorodyne" was returned.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, September 12th, 1867.

Braye, Hardwick Hubert, Wellington Square, Hastings  
Cornish, Edgcombe, Tavistock, Devon  
Eddowes, Arthur Benjamin Jackson, Loughborough  
Howells, Thomas, Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital  
Howse, Henry Greenway, Henrietta Street, Bath  
Kemp, William George, Canterbury, Kent

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

Gaitskell, Edward Forbes, Guy's Hospital  
Hall, Francis de Havilland, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Hogg, Richard Bowen, Guy's Hospital

The following passed on September 19th:—

Lewis, Charles Gray Montgomery, Sedgley, Birmingham  
McCarthy, Jeremiah, London Hospital  
Mickleby, George, Bethlem Royal Hospital

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

Jones, Charles, Middlesex Hospital

### APPOINTMENTS.

GARMAN, J. Cooper, Esq., appointed Medical Officer of Health for Wednesbury, vice H. E. Proctor, Esq., deceased.  
VERNON, Bowater J., Esq., appointed Curator to the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital Museum.

### BIRTH.

SPRATLY. On September 3rd, at Rock Ferry, Cheshire, the wife of S. Spratly, M.D., of a son.

### MARRIAGE.

GILLARD, Richard, Esq., Surgeon, of Hovingham, near York, to Elizabeth, fifth daughter of the Rev. F. ARNOLD, M.A., rector of Brimington, near Chesterfield, on September 17th.

BEQUESTS.—Mrs. Sarah Pugh, Tonbridge Wells, recently deceased, has bequeathed £200 to the Kent County Hospital; and Miss Elinor Grierson has left legacies of £100 each to the Liverpool Dispensaries and Infirmary. These benevolent ladies have left large sums to other charities not strictly medical.

MORTALITY OF NURSINGS.—The authorities of Munich for some years past have required that in all cases of children dying in their first year, the parents should declare whether or no the infant had been suckled by the mother. A statistical table of the last two years shows that out of one hundred deceased, eighty-eight were not so brought up.

DEATH OF DR. JONES OF CARNARVON.—The tragical death of Dr. Jones of Carnarvon is announced. He was belated at the foot of Snowdon during a thunderstorm; and, after being missed for six days, his body was found bruised and distorted at the bottom of a quarry. Great grief is displayed in Carnarvon and its neighbourhood, where Dr. Jones was greatly respected.

THE EMBALMED BODY OF THE LATE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN.—"In regard to the body of Maximilian," says a correspondent, writing from the city of Mexico, under date July 29th, "it was embalmed by Dr. Ribadaneira, Medical Inspector of the Army of Northern Mexico, on the staff of General Escobedo. After the embalment, it was taken to the chapel of the Convent of the Capuchin Nuns, where it lay a few days ago under a guard, awaiting to be claimed by some competent and authorised person. It is stated that the doctor has a claim upon the corpse for \$10,000 or \$20,000, professional fee for services, and that it is held for this fee. The coffin is an ordinary affair; the face of the corpse covered with glass. The body is poorly dressed, and imperfectly embalmed."

ROYAL MUNIFICENCE.—His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, before leaving this country, deposited with the Lord Mayor the large sum of £2,500, to be distributed among the poor of the metropolis, as a token of his appreciation of the welcome he had received during his visit to London. His lordship considered that the best mode for a proper distribution of the fund was to bestow it upon charitable institutions, and amongst these has included several medical institutions, as the Hospital for Consumption, Victoria Park, £100, and £50 each to the following; viz., the Infirmary for Children, the Guy's Hospital Maternity Charity, the City of London and East Dispensaries, the Farringdon Dispensary, the Royal South London Dispensary, the Metropolitan Dispensary, the Royal General Dispensary, the City Dispensary, the Truss Society, the Orthopaedic Hospital, the Cripples' Home (Kennington), and the Convalescent Home (Mrs. Gladstone's)—making a total of £850 to medical charities only.

## 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.

## MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

**WEDNESDAY**.—Obstetrical Society of London. 7 P.M., Council Meeting; 8 P.M., "Induction of Premature Labour by Injection to the Fundus of the Uterus", by Professor Lazarewicz of Kharkoff; "Case of Spina Bifida, with Talipes Varus of both Feet", by Dr. Madge; and other papers by Dr. Routh, Mr. Curgenvin, etc.

## 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.

## THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.

SIR,—I see that Dr. Lankester will, on October 4th, hold an inquest touching the death of the woman who is said to have been injured or stifled by the foul air of the Metropolitan Railway. Will you let me suggest, through your JOURNAL, to the Coroner, that he would do well—if he wishes to have a full account, so far as may be, of the effects of the foul air in question—to summon some of the porters who are wont to inhale for several hours of the day the polluted atmosphere in the underground stations at Portland Place, Gower Street, etc. I have questioned them on the subject, and have been always told of ill effects, headaches, nausea, etc., thence resulting. The public is much indebted to your JOURNAL for having been the first to call attention to this subject. If your warnings and advice touching ventilation had been then attended to, some of the subsequent evils of which we now hear might possibly have been avoided. I am, etc., M.

MR. NUNNELEY (Leeds) shall receive an early proof.

## PANCREATIC EMULSION.

SIR,—The following anonymous challenge came to me by post to-day:—"Does Dr. Dobell venture to assert that he does not prescribe a secret remedy, and tell his patients that Pancreatic Emulsion must be made by a certain chemist; and will Dr. Dobell venture to assert that he does not receive an honorarium from said chemist?"

As I hear on all sides that these questions are going about among medical men, will you allow me to give them a public answer in your columns? It has already been stated again and again, and I now repeat: 1, that pancreatic emulsion is not a secret remedy; its composition has been announced privately and publicly over and over again, and it is open to all chemists; 2, that I have not the slightest pecuniary interest, past, present, or future, in pancreatic preparations; and I have never received the value of one farthing in any shape or form from any chemist or other person for any invention or preparation of any kind. I am, etc.,

HORACE DOBELL, M.D.

DR. J. S.—The office for Registration is 32, Soho Square. There is no occasion to send your Diploma; the fee in your case will be £5.

**VENTILATION OF SEWERS**.—Dr. Mackinder has addressed a letter to the Gainsborough Board of Health, which was read at the last meeting, in which he discusses the ventilation of sewers—a matter of great importance to all communities. He proposes perpendicular tubes carried to the top of some high buildings, at the bottom of which should be charcoal chambers, or, if possible, small furnaces. The sewer gases would be burned and decomposed in passing over the incandescent coal (there would be no danger of explosion). Charcoal might be used to substitute this more costly plan, or in the intervals of the furnaces being used.

**A MEMBER**.—The Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council may be had, when published, at Hansard's Office, Great Queen Street, W.C.

## THE POWER TO RECOVER MEDICAL CHARGES.

SIR,—Please inform me in the next number of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL whether a L.R.C.P. Edinburgh, or a L.R.C.P. London, or both, can, in a County Court or any other court of law, recover payment for medicines supplied, supposing either of the above named qualifications to be the only medical one held.

August 1867.

\* \* \* Yes.

I am, etc.,

A PHYSICIAN.

**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.

MR. W. H. SPENCER is thanked for his acceptable communication.

## THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST.

DR. DOBELL has addressed to the Governors a reply to the second circular of Drs. Richardson, Leared, and Powell, which he states to consist throughout of a laboured attempt to pervert and evade the truth. He quotes a minute of the Medical Council of July 3rd, 1866, as follows:—"A discussion occurred on the question of Dr. Powell's aspirations to become Physician or Assistant-Physician to the Infirmary, in which it was urged by Dr. Dobell that the law requiring the candidates for the office of Physician to be members of the Royal College of Physicians of London, ought to be kept inviolate, as most important to the position of the Hospital, both with the profession and with the public; and that if the office of Assistant-Physician were ever created, it should be governed by the same law as to qualification as the office of full Physician. Dr. Dobell expressed his regret at being forced to oppose the advancement of Dr. Powell in this instance, and stated, that if Dr. Powell had been a member of the College of Physicians, it would have given him pleasure to have recognised his claims as a candidate for the office of Physician. It was finally resolved: 'That the Medical Council finding that there are two days of attendance vacant at the Infirmary, are compelled to suggest that the Committee advertise for a Physician to succeed Dr. Althaus.'" He says that on July 26th, 1867, Dr. Richardson and Dr. Powell, in a most offensive manner, refused to confirm this minute.

As to the "real causes of resignation" (see abstract in last week's JOURNAL), he makes the following statements.

a. This refers to an occurrence five years ago, and is untrue, as shewn by the following minute of Medical Council:—"July 28th, 1862. Meeting called by desire of the Committee of Management, to consider the expenses incurred for drugs at the Infirmary. The analysis of the expenses was submitted to the Council, and it was found that the excess of expense on behalf of Dr. Richardson was due to the use of large quantities of peroxide of hydrogen. Dr. Richardson regretted to find that the medicines used by him were so expensive, but considered them to be of such value, that he could not conscientiously withhold them. He stated that he would reduce the quantity used to the lowest practicable amount—this statement to be submitted to the Committee of Management.—Confirmed, March 13th, 1863, B. W. Richardson." He says the Council will be able to deny that he ever let the Hospital pay for "extravagant experiences".

With regard to Dr. Leared and the Turkish bath, he quotes a minute of the Medical Council on May 17th, 1864. It is there stated that Dr. Leared proposed a Turkish bath should be erected at the Hospital for the purpose of experimenting with it in the treatment of consumption. Dr. Dobell said that if the Infirmary had been a General Hospital, he would at once have seconded the proposal; but that as the Infirmary was a Special Hospital, both the profession and the public would consider the staff of the Infirmary committed to the treatment of chest-disease by the Turkish bath. Dr. Althaus agreed in the main with Dr. Dobell's views; and Dr. Leared said he did not wish to push the matter, unless his colleagues were unanimous in its favour. Dr. Dobell states also that, after this, he materially assisted Dr. Leared in obtaining permission of the Council of Management for his experiments to be carried on, at the expense of the Hospital, at a Turkish bath in the neighbourhood; but that he has not reported a single result of his experiments to the Medical or General Council, although he (Dr. Leared) has availed himself of the permission to a large extent.

b. Dr. Dobell says that the placards objected to were sent as a present by the Secretary of the National Union Life Office, who was a Governor of the Hospital. He was astonished to hear one day, accidentally, that these pictures annoyed one of his colleagues, and he had them taken down immediately.

c. Dr. Dobell says that Mr. Pattison, a maker of respirators, had for several years presented a number of respirators to the Hospital, which had been distributed by the physicians in the out-patient's room, year after year. At last, hung in the Hospital waiting-room, by permission of Dr. Dobell, as Honorary Secretary, a notice of the low price at which they could be purchased. Soon afterwards, hearing that some objection had been made to the notice, Dr. Dobell had it taken down.

d. This Dr. Dobell states to be quite untrue, and to refer to an occurrence in 1863, fully explained at the time.

e. Dr. Dobell states that the Secretary to the Medical Council (not the Council of Management) is elected yearly by the medical staff; and that he has been kept in that post, against his own often expressed wishes to be released, ever since 1860.

f. This Dr. Dobell states to be most gratuitously false; and says that the clause referred to was introduced by the Secretary with the written consent of a majority of the Governors, and was confirmed by a subsequent General Court of Governors, at which he was not present. He says that the responsibility of this proceeding rests with the Council and Governors, not with him.

g. The charge made here he describes as untrue in every statement.

The "Diet Scale" question, he states, has already been settled in a previous correspondence; and he says that it would have been simply fair to have quoted the cheap diet prescribed for the large majority of patients, instead of selecting the only expensive diet on his list.

Dr. Dobell says that the "question of attendance" and of the "Attendance-Book", belongs to the Council, not to him. He expresses his regret that a charge should be brought against the late Mr. Smart; and says that if there ever were a particle of foundation for the charge, it is strange that Dr. Richardson never complained of it either to the Council or to him during Mr. Smart's life-time.

He admits that on July 26th, 1867, at a meeting of the Medical Council, a hot discussion occurred in consequence of Dr. Richardson and Dr. Powell refusing to confirm the minutes of July 3rd, 1866, already quoted. But, he says, it is not true that on that or on any other occasion one word was uttered by any of his colleagues on the subject of his occupying the post of Honorary Secretary to the Hospital. He says that, in consequence of Dr. Richardson's having on that occasion refused to admit the truth of some of his statements, he (Dr. Dobell) urged upon him, in writing, to meet him at the Hospital in the presence of Dr. Cruicknell and two Members of Council, and promised that in their presence he would prove, from written documents, that his (Dr. Dobell's) statements were true. On Dr. Richardson's objecting to the constitution of this tribunal, Dr. Dobell proposed that four arbitrators should be appointed, two by each. He says that this proposal for an open investigation was evaded by the issue of the first circular signed by Drs. Richardson, Leared, and Powell, dated 22nd August.

\* \* \* This most unpleasant and very lengthy controversy cannot, we fear, be settled by correspondence. Would it not be better to refer the questions at issue to professional arbitration?

We have to thank correspondents for copies of the *Retford News*, the *Belfast News Letter*, and the *Hants Observer*, containing matter of medical interest.

M.D., LIVERPOOL.—I. Liebreich's Atlas d'Ophthalmoscopie,  $\text{L}2:2$ : Baillière, London. II. Mr. Carter's Translation with Notes of Zander on the Ophthalmoscope, for the construction of the instrument and the description of pathological changes in the deep structures of the eye; the first Fasciculus of the second volume of Wecker's *Études Ophthalmologiques* (Delahaye, Paris) for the application in therapeutic indications of these investigations.

#### AN AMBIGUOUS QUESTION.

S. writes:—A. has been in declining health for some time; B. purchases his practice, and enters into nominal partnership with him. After a few weeks, A. dies. As a point of medical etiquette, are A.'s appointments to be regarded in the light of death vacancies? Are the medical men of the neighbourhood doing wrong in canvassing for and using every effort to prevent B. from obtaining those appointments?

\* \* We do not understand the word "nominal," as used here. A partnership, however, carries with it only that of which the contracting parties have the right and power of disposition. Public appointments are usually public property. If S. feels any doubt, let him give B. the benefit of it.

"SACKVILLE STREET."—The person whose death was announced in the *Times* as a *Fellow* of the College, was an *ad eundem* member only.

#### LAWRENCE'S LECTURES ON MAN.

SIR,—In the Obituary of Sir William Lawrence (*BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, July 12th, 1867), in reference to his "Lectures on the Physiology, Zoology, and the Natural History of Man," it is stated that "He kept his word in calling in *all* the copies." I beg to say that I have a copy in my possession, printed in 1819, and shall esteem it a favour if you will have the goodness to inform me if it is unique or scarce. I am, etc., E. B. WHITCOMBE.

Cleobury Mortimer, September 1867.

\* \* Our correspondent's copy is certainly not unique. It does not follow that, because Mr. Lawrence called in all the copies, he was able to obtain every single copy which had then been sold.

MR. MITRA (Edinburgh) will oblige by sending another copy of his pamphlet.

IN VINO VERITAS.—The subject has been ably treated by Dr. Druitt. We should prefer his opinion to the "Commissioner" named.

#### PREVENTION OF SICKNESS FROM CHLOROFORM.

SIR,—Vomiting is so frequent and so troublesome a concomitant of the administration of chloroform, both during and after the inhalation of the anæsthetic, that I am pleased to lay before your readers the general result of a very simple, and, as I believe, a very effective mode of prevention. I have already, in some eighteen or twenty eye operations, adopted the plan of giving the patient a drink of a few drops of chloroform in water before commencing the inhalation, and so far the result has been most satisfactory; not more than one, or at most two, cases of slight nausea having occurred where the chloroform drink had been previously administered. The remedy has, of course, to be more extensively tested before it can be relied upon; but I should be glad if some of your correspondents would record the result of their experience in its use. I am, etc., EDWIN CHESHIRE, F.R.C.S.

Birmingham, July 1867.

ARTHUR BARCLAY (Dublin).—You will find some account in Nightingale's *London and Middlesex*, vol. iii, p. 538, where it is also stated that Edmond Phillips had £40:4:8 for embalming the body of Thomas Sutton, the benevolent founder of Charterhouse.

G. J. F. (Lincoln's Inn).—It is said that Van Roonhuysse recommended moxa as a remedy for the gout about 1662. Greatorex, or Greatrecks, the Rubber, appeared in London the following year.

#### MEDICAL CORONERS.

SIR,—Seeing the subject of medical coroners alluded to again in the *JOURNAL* of August 31st, I venture to trouble you with a few remarks in reference to it, as I do not quite agree with the opinion which has been gaining ground the last few years as to the superiority of a medical man for the office rather than a lawyer; and I should be glad to hear from any members who have had experience in the matter how far they coincide with my views. Assuming, as I may reasonably do, that neither the medical man nor the lawyer have had any education in each other's profession, I think the latter will best serve the interests of the public in general in the important office of coroner, and for this reason, that he can always have the opinion of a medical man to assist him in those points in the case of which he has the least knowledge himself, whereas a medical coroner could not well subpoena a lawyer to help him through the intricacies of any legal question that may arise.

If I am right in this, it follows that a legal coroner will prove more advantageous to the pecuniary interests of our profession, inasmuch as he will send us a subpoena more often; and, as the inquest-fee is but too often the only means we have of getting paid for attendance in cases of sudden death, this is a consideration of some importance.

We have had a medical coroner for this district for several years. I have not the pleasure of knowing him personally; and he seems rarely to require the attendance of a medical man at his inquests, and I have heard others make the same remark. In saying this, I have no wish to impute any blame to him; he may very possibly be only carrying out his instructions, and endeavouring to save the county funds. But I should like to know if this is the practice adopted by medical coroners elsewhere; if so, I can only say that in supporting their election, the members of our profession are more truly disinterested than I had given them credit for.

I do not like anonymous critics, and therefore sign myself

Mells, Frome, Sept. 1867.

Yours obediently, GEORGE TERRY.

SIR,—The report of an inquest recently held near this town, and which I have forwarded to you (that on a case of morphia poisoning), will, I think, be a good addendum to the few remarks you appended in the number for August 31st, to the account of a meeting of medical men held in Liverpool in support of Dr. Gee. Surely the time has arrived when the members of our profession should be united; but too frequently, and especially in small towns, private jealousies are allowed to stand before the general welfare of the profession as a body. I am, etc., A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION.

D. R. WOAKES will see that his paper appears in the *Journal of Cutaneous Medicine*.

A CONSTANT READER will find a similar inquiry answered repeatedly in this *JOURNAL*. By passing the ensuing Preliminary Examination in Arts at Apothecaries' Hall, his pupil will be able to enter on his Hospital studies in October.

#### THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PROFESSION IN THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

SIR,—Will you allow me to call the attention of your readers to the illusory nature of the boon offered to the profession, as regards their representation on the General Council, in the letter of Dr. Francis Hawkins to the Editor of the *Medical Mirror*, copied in the *JOURNAL* of August 24th.

The Council propose that the Crown nominees, or some of them, should be elected by the practitioners, instead of being named, as now, by the Crown. This is, indeed, to take away with one hand what they pretend to give with the other. Aware that the Crown nominees, as being themselves practitioners, are, to a certain extent, already representatives of the practitioners, they are determined that in the impending struggle between the interests of the colleges and of the profession at large, the ranks of those who will side with the profession shall receive no accession of strength. They have no objection to an alteration in the mode of their obtaining seats on the Council, but every objection to any increase in the numbers of those who must necessarily prefer the interests of the profession at large to those of the licensing bodies. For we may as well avow plainly that there is a direct antagonism between the two, and that the battle must ever long be fought out between them; the interest of the profession being, that persons of inferior education, whether general or professional, shall not be admitted into their ranks to compete unfairly against them, while that of the licensing bodies is to pass as many as possible, for the sake of the fees to be thus obtained. In this battle, the representatives of licensing bodies, of high class, will undoubtedly take part with the profession. The corporations, of inferior class, will seek to increase their own gains by keeping their standard low; while other corporations, of better spirit, are trying to raise theirs.

As regards the Crown nominees, their business on the Medical Council is, if I conceive aright of it, to watch over the interests of the public—to act as moderators or umpires in the contest between the other two parties. That the interests of the public suffer at present from too low a standard, both of general and professional education, is obvious, and has been strongly insisted on by Dr. E. A. Parkes, the representative of one very important branch of the public interest, that of the public services. Hence, as a necessary consequence, the Crown nominees take part with the profession at the present time, though not in the interest of the profession, as I take it, but of the public, for at present these two are united in interest against the colleges, and it is a matter of importance to the latter to prevent a junction of their forces; hence the policy of their ingenious proposal. We will admit that the profession might demand too high a standard in their wish to exclude competition; in that case, the Crown nominees would side with the colleges, lest the public, whose interests we must allow to be of higher importance than ours, should suffer from a limited supply of men, those fitted to enter the labour market being unfairly prevented from so doing. That the Crown nominees now side with us, is in itself a proof that the public interest is suffering from the low class of medical men let loose to prey upon society.

Let me make a fairer proposal than that made by the Council; namely, that each of the licensing bodies should pay the expenses of its own representative on the Council, allowing us to bear, by our registration fees, the expenses of our own representatives and of the Crown nominees. We have taxation without representation; the colleges have representation without taxation. This state of things is in defiance of correct principles of political economy, and bears fruit accordingly. We must have our own representatives in addition to the Crown nominees, who have an independent function to perform. I am, etc., ISAAC ASHE, A.B., M.B.DUB.

Warrenpoint, August 1867.

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

The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; Mr. A. Linton Bogle, Hay (with enclosure); The Registrar-General of England; Mr. R. Dunn (with enclosure); The Registrar-General of Ireland; Mr. Hickman (with enclosure); Mr. T. M. Evans, Hull (with enclosure); Mr. Hulke (with enclosure); Mr. Jolliffe Tufnell, Dublin (with enclosure); Dr. F. Oppert (with enclosure); Dr. Meldon, Dublin (with enclosure); Dr. Kelly, Taunton (with enclosure); Mr. Collins (with enclosure); Dr. Barbier Dubourg, Paris (with enclosure); Dr. William C. Beatty, Weston-super-Mare; Dr. Daniel Hooper; Dr. Edward Woakes, Luton (with enclosure); Dr. Alfred Carpenter, Croydon; Mr. H. B. Franklyn, Varenna, Lake of Como; Dr. Dowson; Dr. McSwiney, Dublin; Mr. T. M. Stone; Mr. W. H. Spencer (with enclosure); Mrs. Baines (with enclosure); Dr. Horace Dobell (with enclosure); Mr. J. Vose Solomon, Birmingham; Dr. Black, Edinburgh (with enclosure); Mr. B. E. Brodhurst (with enclosure); Dr. Michael Foster; Mr. Thomas Nunneley, Leeds (with enclosure); Mr. John Cocker, Blackpool; Mr. Theodore R. Wright; Mr. Hodgson, Brighton; Mr. J. Miller; Dr. Bright, Sydenham; The Dean of St. George's Hospital; Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson; Professor Bentley; The Honorary Secretary of the Obstetrical Society of London; Mr. L. Mitra, Edinburgh; Mr. Fleischmann; Dr. Chapman; Mr. Leigh (with enclosure); The Lecturers of Middlesex Hospital; The Lecturers of the London Hospital; Mr. J. Birchenall, Macclesfield (with enclosure); Dr. Robert McDonnell, Dublin (with enclosure); Dr. I. de Zouche, Workhouse Hospital, Liverpool; Dr. Maddox; Mr. Harry Leach (with enclosure); Dr. Divers (with enclosure); Dr. Gairdner, Glasgow (with enclosure); Dr. Z. Johnson, Kilkenny (with enclosure).

#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

A Handbook of Gymnastics and Athletics. By E. G. Ravenstein and John Hulley. London: 1867.  
On the Care and Treatment of the Insane Poor. By C. Lockhart Robertson, M.D. Cantab. London: 1867.  
The Relief of Pain by the Use of Metallic Tractors. London: 1867.  
Report on Epidemic Cholera in the Army of the United States during the year 1866. Washington: 1867.  
Transactions of the Epidemiological Society of London, vol. ii, Part 2. London: 1867.  
An Essay on the Health of Lord Bacon; with an Introductory Notice of his Medical Writings. By John Dowson, M.D. London: 1867.  
Journal of Cutaneous Medicine and Diseases of the Skin, for October 1867.  
The Belfast News-Letter, September 14th.—The Birmingham Daily Post, September 19th.—The Cheltenham Express, September 7th.