

### THE PRIZE MEDAL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE Hastings Gold Medal, value twenty guineas, is offered annually by the British Medical Association as a prize for an essay on some subject connected with medical science.

The subject selected for competition in 1868 is "*Delirium Tremens*"; and the award will be made at the annual meeting of the Association in August.

Essays must not be in the handwriting of the authors. Each essay (which must not exceed in length twenty-four pages of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL) must be sent under cover, with a sealed envelope bearing the motto of the essay and containing the name of the author, to the General Secretary of the Association, on or before 1st July, 1868.

The successful essay will become the property of the Association, and will be published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, *General Secretary*.

13, Newhall Street, Birmingham, November 1867.

### MEDICAL TRIAL.

BAIL COURT, Dec. 2.—(Before Mr. Justice BLACKBURN and a Common Jury.)—THORPE v. THE SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

THIS was an action for compensation in damages for a serious injury sustained by the plaintiff in a carriage of the defendants' railway; £8000 was the amount claimed in the declaration. As in the case reported last week, there was a regrettable conflict of medical evidence.

Dr. Ralph Gording, Surgeon to the Royal Kent Dispensary, said the plaintiff was now suffering from chronic inflammation of the fibrous membrane covering the spinal chord, nervous debility, and concussion of the brain. He will, according to the opinion based by the witness on his experience, be invalidated for at least three years, and then his recovery will be doubtful. He never will be the same man again, and from the wound on the nose will never perfectly recover his sight.

Dr. Scott, of Upper Woburn Place, said he found on examination of plaintiff diffused tenderness and exalted sensibility in the neighbourhood of the spine. He had no sound hopes of his recovery, and had no hopes whatever of his being anything but damaged for life in so far as his capacity to follow his profession was concerned.

Professor Erichsen, the senior surgeon of University College, was also called for the plaintiff, and confirmed the previous evidence.

For the defence, Mr. John Adams, of the London Hospital, said: he saw the plaintiff on the 12th of April, in consultation with Dr. Reynolds and Professor Clark on the part of the defendants; and Professor Erichsen, Dr. Scott, and Dr. Gooding, for the plaintiff. He believed the plaintiff was suffering from nothing more serious than a severe concussion of the brain, that there was no injury to the spine, and that perfect recovery might be expected in about a year.

Dr. Reynolds, physician to the Epileptic and University College Hospitals, and Mr. Le Gros Clark, of St. Thomas's Hospital, corroborated the view of the plaintiff's injuries which was advanced by the defendants' counsel.

Mr. Serjeant Ballantine summed up his case, and Mr. Digby Seymour replied.

The learned Judge recapitulated the main points of the evidence, and the jury, after a consideration of about a quarter of an hour, assessed the damages at £2,000.

### ARMY MEDICAL RANK AND PRECEDENCE.

THE following general order has been issued by the Adjutant-General, Lord William Paulet:—

"Medical officers are for the future to be exempted from serving as members of all boards except medical boards. Should a medical opinion be required by a military board, reference must be made to the medical officer, who will furnish his report in writing, or give evidence in person if thought necessary. Medical officers having the relative rank of field-officer are to provide themselves with chargers and horse furniture, and to appear mounted when required to attend parades. On official occasions when guests are invited to a mess in the name of the officers of a regiment the senior combatant officer must always preside, and no second place is to be recognised."

We fear that this solution of the question at issue will not be generally satisfactory to medical officers, although we understand that it is so to some. It aims at solving the questions raised by removing the bases; but, so far as it settles any question of precedence, the solution appears to us unfavourable to our brethren in the army.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE next meeting of this Branch will be held at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, on Thursday, December 12th. The chair will be taken at 4 P.M. by Mr. ROPER,

Dinner will be provided at 6 P.M.

Papers, etc., are promised by Dr. Carpenter, Mr. F. Howard Marsh, Mr. Roper, and others.

HENRY T. LANCHESTER, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

### BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE next ordinary meeting of the above Branch will be held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday evening, December 12th, at 8.30 P.M.; R. W. COE, Esq., F.R.C.S., President.

The following papers are expected:—A. Prichard, Esq., F.R.C.S., Deformities of the Hand.—W. M. Clarke, Esq., The Treatment of Wounds after Surgical Operations.—E. C. Board, Esq., Extraordinary Small-Pox in Japan.—C. Leonard, Esq., Umbilical Hernia.—J. K. Spender, M.B., A Case of Abscess of the Brain.—E. Crossman, Esq., Penetrating Wound of Pelvis, opening the Bladder.

\* \* \* It has been found necessary to exchange the Bristol and Bath meetings of December 12th and January 23rd; the Victoria Rooms not being available for any Thursday in December.

### BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE second ordinary meeting of the present Session was held at the Midland Institute on November 14th, at 3 P.M. Present—S. BERRY, Esq., President, in the Chair, and twenty-eight members.

*Communications, etc.*—1. Mr. GARMAN, of Wednesbury, exhibited the Bladder of a newly-born Infant with Hydatiform Degeneration of the Kidneys, and greatly dilated Uterus. Immediately after birth, attention was directed to a large tumour which occupied the whole of the hypogastric, hypochondriac, and epigastric regions. Mr. Garman diagnosed it as an unnatural enlargement of the bladder. The infant survived four days, and voided urine daily, which was of healthy character. At the end of the fourth day it died from exhaustion and oedema. The bladder was found to be very enlarged; it contained urine. The coats were thickened; it occupied the whole cavity of the abdomen, pressed upwards, and arrested the development of the liver, which consisted of two rudimentary lobes only. The arch of the diaphragm was raised by its upward pressure, so that the bases of the lungs extended no lower than the third rib. The kidneys could not be recognised; they each were surrounded by a mass of hydatids with some granular matter interspersed. The ureters were considerably dilated, so as to assume the appearance of small intestines. No internal examination of the kidneys was made. The chief point of interest in this case appeared to be—the secretion of urine which took place during the brief existence of the infant.

2. Mr. FURNEAUX JORDAN exhibited a specimen of advanced Caries of the Knee. The stratum of cartilage uniting the epiphyses of the shaft was distinctly marked, and the disease was chiefly in the extremity of the diaphragm or shaft. The exhibitor contended that the case and the specimen, with many others he had seen, confirmed certain views he had published, to the effect that all so-called struma (phthisis, caries, etc.), is due to transmitted syphilis. Articular caries, he believed, begins on the shaft side of the epiphysal line.

3. Mr. FURNEAUX JORDAN also exhibited a specimen of Epithelioma of the Tibia. In both cases the exhibitor had amputated at the thigh by Teale's method, the hæmorrhage being arrested by acupressure. Both patients were doing well.

4. Mr. VOSE SOLOMON read a paper on the Optic Nerve and the Ophthalmoscope; with notes on the surgery of the nineteenth century.

5. Dr. FLEMING read a paper on the Treatment of the Habit of Opium-eating. This paper has been received for publication in the JOURNAL. A discussion of much interest, in which several members took part, followed the reading of Dr. Fleming's paper.

Mr. UNDERHILL of Tipton gave an account of a Successful Case of Ovariectomy; with a description of the ovarian tumour which was exhibited to the Branch at a former meeting.

*New Members.*—The following gentlemen were elected Members of the Association and Branch:—Dr. James Hinds and Mr. Jackson, of Birmingham; Dr. Miller and Dr. Collins, of Wolverhampton; Dr. Malins, of Cradley; Mr. Davies, of Smethwick; Mr. A. Latham, of Darlaston; Mr. Sutcliffe, of West Bromwich.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The following passed the Second M.B. Examination, 1867. Examination for Honours.

- MEDICINE.** *First Class.*  
 Beck, Marcus (Scholarship and Gold Medal), University College  
 \*Raine, George Rolph (Gold Medal), Guy's Hospital  
 \*Smith, Robert Shingleton, King's College  
 \*Stokoe, Paul Henry, Guy's Hospital  
 \*Legg, John Wickham, University College  
 \*Berrell, Charles, King's College  
 Cafavy, John, St. George's Hospital  
 Dove, John Reuben Bathurst, London Hospital  
 Orton, George Hunt, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 Parsons, Henry Franklin, St. Mary's Hospital  
 Sawyer, James, Queen's College, Birmingham } equal
- Second Class.*  
 Parsons, Henry Franklin, St. Mary's Hospital  
 Stokoe, Paul Henry, Guy's Hospital
- FORENSIC MEDICINE.** *First Class.*  
 Stokoe, Paul Henry (Scholarship and Gold Medal), Guy's Hospital
- Third Class.*  
 Raine, George Rolph, Guy's Hospital  
 Dove, John Reuben Bathurst, London Hospital  
 Beck, Marcus, University College } equal  
 Berrell, Charles, King's College
- \* Obtained number of marks qualifying for Scholarship.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, November 28th, 1867.

- Cassidy, David McKay, Sydenham Park, S.E.  
 Davies, William Richard, Carnarthen, South Wales  
 Jones, George Francis, Prittlewell, Essex  
 Langmore, John Wreford, 12, Sussex Gardens, W.  
 Prior, Richard Henry, Chichester, Sussex

THE WILL OF DR. JAMES BLACK, late of Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire, an obituary notice of whom appeared in our issue of May 25th, 1867, has been proved under £10,000 in personalty and effects.

DR. CONNEAU, the Emperor's old friend and physician, has been made a senator. The *Figaro*, which is apt to be personal, thus sums up his claims to that great professional reward—*Comme médecin il n'a jamais fait de mal à personne (i.e., as a doctor he is quite harmless).*

IMPORTANT TO DISPENSARY DOCTORS.—At the last meeting of the Dundalk Board of Guardians, says the *Belfast News*, a question of considerable interest to medical men was discussed. It appeared that Dr. Pollock, medical officer of the Barronstown Dispensary District, had been summoned to a partition case, which occupied him from Friday till the following Sunday. He did not know it was to be a private case. In the meantime another call came for him, and this time it was a dispensary case. Dr. Pollock could not leave the first person he was attending, and the services of Dr. Kelly were procured for the second case. The question was, who was to pay the latter gentleman's fee. Ultimately, no order was made in the matter, Dr. Pollock being left to take what steps he might deem proper.

LONDON CEMETERIES.—Twenty-one cemeteries within the metropolitan district supply 577 acres appropriated to the burial of the dead. There have been already about half a million interments in these cemeteries, and at least 40,000 burials are added to them every year. Some of the cemeteries are getting much fuller than others. In the 33 acres provided by the City of London and Tower Hamlets Cemetery Company 115,173 burials had taken place at the close of the year 1865; the interments there are at the rate of about 10,000 a year,—one seventh of the whole number of the deaths in the metropolis in a year. In the Abney Park Cemetery of 33 acres there had been 38,639 burials at the end of 1866; and in the 27 acres of the St. Marylebone Cemetery, at East-end, Finchley, only opened in 1855, there had been, in the middle of the present year, 28,092 interments. In another cemetery at Finchley, belonging to St. Mary, Islington, burials have proceeded at the rate of 100 per acre every year. The drainage of the metropolitan cemeteries is generally into the public sewer, but not always. There are instances of drainage into an open stream, a brook, the Wandle, the Brent, the Thames. In St. Marylebone Cemetery, Finchley, drainpipes are laid at the bottom of every grave, discharging into a ditch which runs into

a small stream; but little or no water passes out of the cemetery, in consequence of nearly every grave having planted on it a tree or shrub. Graves reopened show roots of trees more than 16 feet deep. Several kinds of willow and poplar trees planted on graves have this year made from 4 feet to 6 feet of wood.

ROYAL SEA-BATHING INFIRMARY, MARGATE.—At the half-yearly meeting on Friday week, the surgical report showed that the number of patients in the hospital on January 1st last was 134, and from thence up to November 23rd there had been admitted 608, making the total number in the year 742, of whom 198 now remained, making the total number treated and discharged 544. Of these 297 had been cured, 167 benefited, 68 had been unimproved, and 12 had died. The number of out-patients from January 1st to November 23rd was 126, and of the 198 in the hospital there were 39 men, 37 women, 70 boys, and 52 girls, and therefore the total number under treatment during that period was 808. A general financial statement was also read, especially pointing out that the invested stock consisted of £1800 Consols, £3464 New Three per Cents., £2500 Great Indian Peninsular Railway Debentures at 5 per cent., and £2500 London and North Western Railway at 4½ per cent., making a total of £10,264.

ST. PANCRAS WORKHOUSE.—Mr. Blake, the master of St. Pancras workhouse, has informed the guardians that the dietary of the inmates has been much improved. All the old people now get meat six days a week in some form or other; that is, they have three ounces in the Irish stew on Wednesdays; three ounces in the pea-soup on Mondays; on four days a week the men have four ounces and a half, and the women four ounces of cooked meat. Saturday is the only day without meat, when they have suet pudding, the men sixteen and the women fourteen ounces, which is served with gravy made after the manner of beef-tea, half a pound of beef to a pint of gravy. Every old person has half a pint of porter daily, last year they only had half a pint five days a week, it being omitted on pea-soup days. The introduction of Irish stew has caused an increased consumption of potatoes, and the more liberal supply of porter an additional quantity to be consumed. The most remarkable part of the story, however, is the fact that while the number of inmates is the same within three as at this time last year, the quantities of bread, meat, butter, tea, sugar, milk, eggs, wine, brandy, gin, etc., are much less at the present time than they were at the corresponding period of last year, to the extent of a saving of £70 a week or £3500 a year.

INSANE PAUPERS.—The annual statistics of pauper insanity have been issued. The number of paupers in England and Wales on the January 1st, 1867 (exclusive of nine Gilberts' incorporations making no return), was, according to the *Times*, 963,200, and 41,276 of them were insane paupers—namely, 30,905 lunatics, 10,371 idiots. "Thus," say the Poor-law Board, "4.3 per cent. of the pauperism is ascribable to insanity, the lunatics being 3.2 per cent., and the idiots 1.1 per cent." In the north-western and west-midland divisions of the kingdom the insane constitute 5 per cent. of the paupers; in the eastern division and in Wales they are only 3.3 per cent., and in the south-western division only 3.6 per cent. Very unequal also is the distribution of idiocy. In the metropolis the return shows only 666 idiots in the 138,706 paupers, while Yorkshire has 865 in even its 64,092 paupers, and the north-midland division 768 in its 55,846 paupers; the west-midland division has a number of idiots (1346) double that of the metropolis, but in a much smaller number of paupers (108,202), and Wales has 1074 among its 79,778 paupers. Of the 41,276 insane paupers, 18,157 were males, and 23,119 females; 23,173 were in county or borough lunatic asylums, 1206 in hospitals or licensed houses, as many as 10,324 in workhouses, 1005 in lodgings or boarded out, and 5568 resided with relatives. The unequal distribution of insanity above noticed is not peculiar to the present return.

THE MYSTERIES OF MEDICINE.—John Birtwhistle, of Hatfield Levels, we read in the local paper, was sued by John Barrow for £1 for curing the defendant's horse of drosy. The defendant caused much amusement by producing the following document in evidence: A felick drink, 4oz. hallum, 4oz. boleharmer; 4oz. turpentine, 4oz. spirits of wine, 2 quarts wine, boiling down to one quart; total cost 1s. 6½d. The defendant insisted that he took this prescription to plaintiff, who agreed to give him the ingredients rather than have the valuable secret divulged. The plaintiff contended that he had cured the horse of a generally fatal disease, and that when he succeeded he always charged a sovereign. His Honour: What sort of a disease is it?—Plaintiff: The drosy.—His Honour (to defendant): Had your horse the drosy? Defendant: Something o' t' sort. (Laughter.) His Honour: If he cured it of drosy he certainly deserves something. As the plaintiff said he could bring some further proof bearing on the case the judge adjourned it, advising the parties to settle amicably if they could.

## 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.—Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, 2.30 P.M.  
**THURSDAY**... St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopedic, 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.

**TUESDAY**.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London. 8 P.M., Ballot. 8.30 P.M., Dr. George Johnson, "On Bright's Disease, and on the Influence of the Minute Blood-Vessels upon the Circulation."—Ethnological Society of London, 8 P.M. Mr. H. H. Howorth, "On the Origins of the Norsemen"; Mr. H. C. Criswick, "Life amongst the Veys."  
**WEDNESDAY**.—Hunterian Society.—Microscopical Society.  
**THURSDAY**.—Zoological Society.—Royal Society.  
**FRIDAY**.—Astronomical Society.

## 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.

To PURCHASERS.—To insure attention, it is requested that all orders sent to the Office for extra copies of the JOURNAL, be accompanied with stamps for the amount.

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

We devote this week an unusual amount of space to correspondence; nevertheless, we regret being compelled to postpone some letters of interest and importance, which shall appear next week.

## THE RULES OF THE SURREY DISPENSARY.

SIR,—At the Surrey Dispensary, as at most other London Dispensaries and Hospitals, there is a rule which obliges its Physicians to be Members or Fellows of the London College of Physicians. One of our surgeons (Dr. Dixon) has been doing his best to get this rule modified, so as to make eligible all who hold a British Degree, or the College of Physicians License, provided they give their word to the Committee that they will not dispense medicines. The Committee invited its staff of four physicians and two surgeons to consider this proposal, and they unanimously rejected it, and advised the Committee to retain the rule as it stands. Upon this, Mr. Dixon appeals to the *Lancet*, and gets a reply, stating that "the Committee are completely ignorant of such matters, and the sooner such a rule is repealed the better." But surely if the general Committee are ignorant, the medical are not; and they, to a man, oppose Dr. Dixon, for these reasons: 1, that his proposal imposes upon the Committee the function of making (and out of general practitioners) what they want ready-made; 2, it does not exclude those who practise surgery; 3, so long as there is a supply of Members and Fellows, it is unnecessary to invite Licentiates and Graduates to compete for the physicianships; 4, it would be unfair to men—who have expended extra time and money to obtain a certain status, and who have made the sacrifice of confining themselves to medicine, *par et simple*, in accordance with the laws of their College—to deprive them of the very few posts to which they alone are eligible; 5, whatever may be the case now, no man was formerly a "London Physician" who was not a Member or Fellow of the London College; 6, our rule is simply that of all other London Hospitals and Dispensaries. Lastly, Licentiates may dispense medicines; may be, and generally are, general practitioners; are eligible for the License at 21, after four years of study, and are not eligible for the Fellowship; Members, on the other hand, cannot dispense medicines, must be pure physicians, and are not eligible for the Diploma before 25, must spend five years in study, and are alone eligible for the Fellowship.

I think, therefore, that the General and Medical Committees acted wisely in retaining their rule, and rejecting Dr. Dixon's proposal.

I am, etc., DANIEL HOOPER, B.A. & M.B. Lond., M.R.C.P. Lond., Trinity Square, S.E., December 1867. Physician to the Surrey Dispensary.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest.—The Belfast News-Letter, November 28th and December 2nd; The Newcastle Daily Chronicle, November 30th; The Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, and Lincolnshire News, November 7th; The Dublin General Advertiser, November 23rd; The Glasgow Morning Journal, November 30th; The North British Review; The Greenwich and Deptford Chronicle, November 30th; The Madras Athenaeum and Daily News, October 17th; The Sussex Agricultural Express, November 30th; The Downpatrick Recorder, Nov. 30th.

## NEW MEMBERS.

DR. JOHN MURRAY (London); DR. REITH (Aberdeen); DR. HORACE DOBELL (London); DR. COOKE (Walsall); DR. H. SANDWITH; DR. SIMMS.—The names of the new members sent (of whom Dr. Murray forwards six) shall be forwarded for election, and the JOURNALS will be furnished from the present date. We may repeat the observations which we last week made, and may take this opportunity of reminding our readers that this is the best time for introducing new members, as the subscription dates from the commencement of the year. As this JOURNAL now confessedly occupies the front rank amongst medical periodicals, and is admittedly at least equal in scientific and literary value and interest with any of its weekly contemporaries, there seems every reason to believe that a large accession of members may be expected by making extensively known at this season the fact that the annual subscription—including the professional advantages of membership of the Association and possession of the JOURNAL free by post—is only one guinea annually; that is, *one-third less than the subscription to the other journals of like repute*. At the stage of prosperity which has now been reached, any further considerable accession of members will not only bring the JOURNAL far into the van of medical periodical literature, and so give to it an unquestionable preeminence in circulation and influence, such as the organ of our greatest professional Association ought to possess, but it will place in the hands of the Association that which has always been an object of desire—surplus funds; which may be used for the advancement of medical science and the protection of professional interests throughout the country. We hope that we may be permitted to appeal to our members individually to aid us in this matter, and to remind them that each one who proposes a new member, renders a service to the Association; while, by widening the bonds of union and strengthening an organisation which aims at the elevation of the whole body medical and the support of its best scientific and social interests, he is doing well for the profession at large.

ERRO.—Address The Directors-General Army Medical Departments, Whitehall, and Naval Medical Department, Somerset House.

## THE CORONER'S INQUIRY.

SIR.—In your paragraph on "Vagaries of Non-Medical Coroners" (Nov. 9th), you instance two cases, in rejoinder to the *Solicitors' Journal* (in which, I presume, some article in their defence had appeared), as evidence of irregularity and want of dignity in the proceedings. In this town, the latter description of case—that of children, both legitimate and illegitimate, being grossly and wilfully neglected with a decided and wicked intention—is very common; but although, as medical officer, I have been cognisant of many such cases, and have refused to certify to the registrar, nothing is ever heard of them, so far as any professional investigation or *post mortem* examination is concerned. Our coroner is a medical man nevertheless.

Frome, November 1867.

I am, etc., EDWIN BUSH.

SIR.—My attention has been directed to a paragraph in the JOURNAL of November 9th, in which you refer to an inquest lately held upon a gentleman's butler at Standwick. With that case I am well acquainted, as the man was a patient of my own; and your report of the inquest is, I believe, substantially correct, except in one important particular. The coroner in that case was a medical man, Dr. Wybrants of Shepton Mallett, whose partner, Mr. Craddock, has just been appointed coroner for another district of our county. With your opinion, as to the value and effects of such inquiries, I cordially agree.

Permit me to add, that a lengthened professional experience, unfortunately much checkered with medico-legal inquiries, has long ago led me to the conviction that a coroner should be a man well versed in the nature and laws of evidence, and capable of conducting an important inquiry with legal exactness and decorum.

Frome, November 1867.

I am, etc., JOSHUA PARSONS.

SIR.—Will you allow me to ask, through the medium of your columns, if anybody can tell us in Bexhill to whose jurisdiction it really does appertain to take notice of the neglect and irregularities of coroners and policemen? I have written to the Home Secretary, calling his attention to the cases lately reported in your JOURNAL and elsewhere by Dr. J. Waring-Curran, and received from him a courteous, but to my poor comprehension, not too intelligible reply, stating that, having received Mr. Coroner ———'s report on the cases to which I have called attention, "Mr. Hardy sees no reason for further interference in the matter, over which the Secretary has no jurisdiction."

It very naturally occurs to me to put the following questions, to any one who may feel disposed to answer them, in addition to the one at the opening of this letter.

1. How could the coroner send in a "report" of an "inquest" which he never held, in the case of the illegitimate child whose suspicious death especially called for one in the opinion of Dr. Curran, and probably of every one else, except a non-medical coroner or a village policeman?

2. Why, if the Secretary of State has no jurisdiction in such matters, receive a coroner's report at all?

3. Why should the coroner's report, in his own defence, be taken for granted as true, and Dr. Curran's character, for honesty of purpose and veracity, be virtually ignored?

Having myself seen enough, and too much, of the working of the irresponsible village policeman arranging inquests, or no inquests, according to his own will and pleasure, with a seemingly irresponsible coroner, I should like immensely to see the coroner's report on the inquest *not* holden on the body of ——— at Bexhill, in order that I and others might know *why* such inquest appeared to the coroner's capacious mind unnecessary; otherwise, to judge by that worthy functionary's remarkably lucid verdict suggested to the jury on a previous occasion, we have scarce lost much by the absence of such inquiry.

As the coroner *has* been heard, I will only sign myself

Bexhill, November 1867.

AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM.

**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.

**J. E. B.**—The Institution of Civil Engineers is situated at 25, Great George Street.

**LUNATICS ABROAD.**

**SIR,**—In one of your recent numbers, you have an article on "Lunatics at Home and Abroad," which is calculated to mislead—as far, at least, as Russia is concerned. During my visit to that country, in August and September last, I saw many cases of mania, acute and chronic, both in St. Petersburg and Moscow, treated on the non-restraint system; and, with the exception, perhaps, of too low a diet, managed with every care, moral, physical, medical, and domestic.

The principal asylum of St. Petersburg—the Hanwell—with two hundred and fifty inmates, situated about three miles on the Peterhof road, and quite in the country, is a model establishment, under the care of a most enlightened physician, Dr. Zeitfert. Here the patients—those who pay for themselves, or a lower class, who are placed there by the State—have the benefit of every modern appliance; amusements, in- and out-door, games, and pastimes. The visitors are non-official. Here is a defect: it is, however, much compensated for by the interest taken in the welfare of the establishment by independent observers. The worst among these are the ministers of religion. In one instance which came within my knowledge, an English girl, an inmate, was regularly visited by the Rev. Arthur Thompson, the chaplain to the British Factory, the brother of Dr. Symes Thompson of London. The painful case of an English gentleman at Moscow, which you quote from Mr. Mould, must have been under the care of a private medical man, and as such very exceptional.

Blackheath, November 1867.

I am, etc.,  
WILLIAM CARR, M.D.

\* \* \* Baron Mundy, M. D., and Mr. Mould, are responsible for the circumstantial statements made. Dr. E. Symes Thompson has written to us to the same effect as Dr. Carr.

**LEX.**—Consult a lawyer in such a case; the necessity for which you will find in Willcock's "Laws relating to the Medical Profession." Remember that "the man who is his own lawyer has a fool for his client."

**ERRATUM.**

**MEDICAL PORTRAITS.**—The address of Mr. Crellin, the photographer, should have been 87, Regent Street, London, W., not 162, as stated in our impression of November 16th.

**AN OBSTETRICIAN** writes:—"The late Dr. Gordon Bailey had in his practice some very remarkable illustrations of what he considered to be effects of the imagination on the foetus *in utero*, which he contemplated publishing."

**THE "LANCET" ON THE LATE DR. JEAFFRESON.**

"In memory of the late Dr. Jeaffreson, many years Physician to the Fever Hospital, Liverpool Road, an exhibition of the value of £20 a year is to be established in St. Bartholomew's Medical School, to be called 'the Jeaffreson'."

**SIR,**—The blunders of your contemporary the *Lancet* have been more than once shewn up for the amusement of your readers; but in the paragraph I enclose, taken from the edition of last Saturday (Nov. 30th), confusion of ideas has been carried to an extreme, which is perhaps even more offensive than ridiculous. It is difficult to understand from what source your contemporary obtained the idea that Dr. Jeaffreson was Physician to the Fever Hospital; as I can find no mention of his having ever held such an appointment, either in his biographical notice published in the last volume of *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Reports*, or on reference to back numbers of the *Medical Directory*. One would have thought that Dr. Jeaffreson had earned for himself a reputation of his own; but failing to find any other explanation of this curious blunder, I am driven to suppose that his identity has been confounded with that of his relative, Dr. Horace Jeaffreson, whose connection with the Fever Hospital (though not as physician) is sufficiently known, both in and beyond the profession.

The misstatement in itself is of little importance, as there can be but few members of our profession, besides the Editor of the *Lancet*, who can require to be informed of the reasons for founding a scholarship to the memory of the late Dr. Jeaffreson at the school with which for thirty years he was officially connected. The ignorant muddle of vague notions would be simply laughable, were it not insulting to the memory of one whose loss we all so deeply regret, and who but recently was one of the leading members of our profession.

December 1867.

I am, etc.,

M. D.

**A STAFF-SURGEON.**—The celebrated Tobias Smollett, M. D., was born 1720; died 1771. He was a surgeon in the Royal Navy, a novel writer, and founder of the *Critical Review*.

**MATERNAL IMPRESSIONS.**

**SIR,**—Perhaps you may think the enclosed case sufficiently interesting to be inserted in the *JOURNAL*. The case occurred to me in London in 1863, and the child's face was the most perfect fac-simile in miniature of that of a woman who had lost her nose and a great part of her upper lip from syphilis, and used to stand about begging, and was thus seen by the woman whilst "carrying" the child.

In December 1863, I was called to Mrs. C., aged 35, in labour with her fourth child. After an ordinary labour, she was delivered of a male child, with the following deviations from normal development. There was a hare-lip, the fissure in the centre of the lip; the child had no nose, the skin being stretched across its site on a level with the cheeks; the anterior nares were represented by a little round opening (covered by a small flap of skin) into the upper part of the fissure. There were six fingers (including thumb) on each hand, and six toes on one foot. The genitals and rectum were perfect. The child lived thirteen hours. On trying to suckle, the flap closed over the aperture so tightly as to threaten suffocation, and feeding was substituted; but it sank into a state of coma, and died.

The mother says that whilst pregnant she had twice observed this woman in the streets with a nose and lip exactly like the child's, but the circumstance did not impress itself on her mind, nor cause her any apprehension as to the state of her future offspring. Her previous children were perfectly formed; and there was no history in the family of any malformations. The mother, directly she saw the child, compared it to this woman; but said, beyond the temporary disgust she felt when she saw her, she thought no more about it. In this respect it differs from Dr. Waring-Curran's case; but seems to support the theory of the influence of maternal impressions.

Wakefield, November 1867.

I am, etc.,  
W. HENRY DAV, L. R. C. P. Ed., M. R. C. S.

**X (Woolwich).**—1. Mr. John Watkins is a Fellow of the College of Surgeons. 2. It would be proper to send the pamphlet to the secretary of that institution.

**WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES, ETC.**

The many Medical Officers of Unions and Workhouses from whom we have received confidential communications, which have not been acknowledged in the *JOURNAL* or otherwise replied to, will please to accept our thanks, and to understand that we avoid acknowledging their communications to prevent any possible subsequent annoyance to themselves; and that we are giving, and shall continue to give, the most careful consideration to all the letters forwarded to us on the subject of Workhouse Infirmary and the position of Union Medical Officers.

Mr. C. J. Fox will oblige us by forwarding the notices of meeting direct to the office. They should arrive not later than Thursday morning.

**CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES.**

**SIR,**—The *Pall Mall Gazette* of November 21st comments on the case of two "respectable youths" who were detected purloining valuable goods from the stalls in the Crystal Palace, and consequently were brought before a magistrate. After the hearing of their case had been twice adjourned, both lads received a mild reprimand, and were acquitted. The above named journal insinuates that the respectability of the prisoners weighed with the magistrate, but not to the same extent as the remarkable evidence (or written testimony) of a medical man who pronounced the elder prisoner to be suffering from epileptic kleptomania. It does not appear that the younger boy had ever been epileptic. How, then, is he acquitted with his comrade, unless on a zymotic theory? Epileptic kleptomania may, for all we can at present tell, differ from pure epilepsy in its possession of subtle contaminating effluvia, which are readily absorbed in the incomplete ventilation of the police dock.

I recommend the subject to the Nomenclature of Disease Committee at our College. Furthermore, allow me to ask the benevolent medical gentleman mentioned by the *Pall Mall Gazette*, if he will kindly inform me, in your next number, whether the kleptastic form of epilepsy is benefited by the bromide of potassium in a greater measure than by the old-fashioned gaoi whipping generally accorded to "common little boys".

November 1867.

I am, etc.,

A ZETETIC PHYSICIAN.

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

Dr. W. H. Broadbent (with enclosure); Dr. John Walters, Reigate (with enclosure); Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson; Dr. J. Hughes Bennett, Edinburgh; Mr. John Hamilton, Dublin; Dr. Michael Foster (with enclosure); Dr. Billing; Dr. F. De Rause, Paris; Mr. J. E. Beckingsale, Newport, Isle of Wight; Dr. Ritchie, Edinburgh; Dr. Fredk. Bateman, Norwich; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall (with enclosure); Dr. J. Waring-Curran, Bexhill; Mr. J. Brown, Carlou, Ireland; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Dr. Reith, Aberdeen; Mr. T. M. Stone; Dr. Greenhalgh (with enclosure); Dr. Wharton, Dublin; Dr. J. C. Clements, Cumberland; Dr. D. MacLachlan; Dr. Budd, Clifton; Mr. S. W. Fearn, Derby; Mr. Lowe; Dr. Balthazar Foster, Birmingham; Dr. J. C. Hall, Sheffield; Dr. H. S. Purdon, Belfast; Dr. Copeman, Norwich; Mr. Furneaux Jordan, Birmingham; Dr. W. Cumming, Edinburgh; Dr. P. W. Latham, Cambridge; Dr. Lumley Earle, Birmingham; Dr. G. M. Humphry, Cambridge; Dr. Shapter, Exeter; Dr. Bullar, Southampton; Dr. Greem; Mr. C. J. Fox (with enclosure); Mr. Francis Mason; Mr. T. Bryant; Dr. Arlidge, Newcastle-under-Lyme; Mr. G. Warington; Mr. T. P. Teale, jun., Leeds; Mr. Weedon Cooke, The Registrar-General of England; The Honorary Secretary of the Harveian Society of London; Dr. Aveling, Sheffield; Mr. Henry Wilson, Dublin; Dr. W. D. Moore, Dublin; Mr. R. Ceely, Aylesbury; Messrs. Black, Edinburgh; Dr. J. Lalor, Dublin; Dr. Hermann Weber; Dr. S. W. Hardy, Dublin (with enclosure). Dr. M. H. Collis, Dublin; Dr. Henry Oldham; Dr. William Stokes, jun.; Mr. R. Harrison, Liverpool; Dr. P. H. Watson, Edinburgh; Dr. J. P. Bramwell, Perth; Dr. Grimshaw, Dublin; Dr. Ogston, Aberdeen; Dr. Addison, Brighton; Professor Laycock, Edinburgh; Dr. Blandford; Professor Turner, Edinburgh; Mr. Labatt, Dublin; Dr. S. J. Goodfellow; Professor Cleland, Galway; Dr. John Murray (with enclosure); Mr. T. Watkin Williams, Birmingham; Mr. Daniel Hooper, Dr. Peacock; Dr. Embleton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. John W. Hill (with enclosure); Mr. W. Square (with enclosure); Dr. T. Grainger Stewart, Edinburgh; Mr. T. H. Bartlett, Birmingham (with enclosure); The Honorary Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; Mr. J. R. Humphreys, Shrewsbury; Mr. Freeman; Professor Rolleston, Oxford; Mr. R. Quain; Mr. Harry Leach; Dr. Lonsdale, Carlisle; Mr. Rutherford, Edinburgh; Mr. T. Holmes; Mr. Erichsen; Dr. Apjohn, South Hill, Blackrock; Dr. J. D. Heaton, Leeds; Dr. C. F. Moore, Dublin; Dr. W. Moore, Dublin; Dr. Sinclair, Dublin; Sir Henry Cooper, Hull; Mr. Lansdown, Bristol; Mr. Hinton, Hinton, near Bath; Mr. Smith, Redditch; Mr. Cross, Petersfield; Mr. Seabrook; Dr. A. W. Barclay; Rev. Dr. Haughton, Dr. K. King, Hull; Dr. Lanchester, Croydon; Dr. Beddoe, Clifton; Dr. Lory Marsh, Nottingham; Dr. T. A. Carter, Leamington; Dr. Aitken, Netley; Dr. Elliston, Ipswich; Mr. Image, Bury St. Edmunds; Dr. Bewley, Edington, Clara; Mr. Delagarde, Exeter; Dr. Lindsay Bonnar, Cupar, Fife; Mr. E. Lund, Manchester; Mr. Lowndes, Liverpool; Dr. Thorburn, Manchester; The Honorary Secretaries of the Ethnological Society; Dr. Stapleton, Dublin; Dr. W. H. Croke, Walsall; Mr. Tibbits, Clifton; Mr. R. C. Moon; Mr. Satterthwaite, Lancaster; Dr. Wade, Birmingham; Dr. Heslop, Birmingham; and Mr. Lockhart Clarke.

**BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.**

Urinary Analysis and Diagnosis, Chemical and Microscopical. By Robert Venables, A. M., M. B. Oxon. Third edition. London: 1867.

Cottage Hospitals: their Objects, Advantages, and Management. By Edward John Waring, M. D. London: 1867.

The Cholera in Malta and Cozo in the year 1865. By Dr. Ghio. Malta: 1867.

Journal of the Bengal Branch of the British Medical Association. Anatomy as taught in the University of Edinburgh. An Introductory Lecture by Professor Turner.