In concluding his paper, he says :—

"I would wish to state the main object of this paper has been to establish the idea that the use of food, of peculiar quality and quantity, can be made to subserve the highest purposes of our being; that it can conduce to energy of character, and improve the intellect itself, whilst the very carrying of it out has a powerful tendency to strengthen that control over the will which ought to be the desire of every reasoning being."

LAST week's JOURNAL contained an account of a meeting which had been held at Dover, for the purpose of establishing periodical *réunions* of the members of the South-Eastern Branch residing in East Kent, with the members of the Medical Society of that district. The proceeding is one which may be looked on as promising good to the Association. At all events, the results of the similar experiment which has been made for the last four years in the western parts of Kent has been highly encouraging. At the commencement, there were nine or ten members at most in the towns of Rochester, Maidstone, Gravesend, and Dartford, and their neighbourhood; but now the secretary has to summon nearly *sixty* members from the same district. So greatly has the Association there flourished, through the attraction of these social and scientific gatherings. We would earnestly impress on the members of other large and widely spread Branches the advantage of these district meetings. They do good to the members who attend them; and they never fail to increase the strength of our Association, while at the same time they develope, as far as they can, its usefulness. We wish that success may attend the enterprise of our friends in East Kent; that even, if possible, they may outdo their fellow associates of the western district.

M. CURIE, the *Moniteur des Sciences* says, is a homœopath *minus* infinitesimal doses. He read to the Academy of Sciences a paper on the tubercle-producing and tubercle-curing action of the *drosera*. From four to twenty drops of the tincture will determine the formation of tubercle in healthy individuals, and cure them in tuberculous individuals. One would have thought that the Academy of Sciences would scarcely listen with calmness to such manifest nonsense. M. Curie, with the usual *clear* language of his school, says: "The drosera *seemed* to me to cure phthisis *almost invariably*".

L'Union Pharmaceutique says that M. Grave has discovered a new property of chloroform. Chloroform, he says, mixed in certain proportions with tincture of aloes or of gentian, or with solutions of sulphate of quinine, entirely removes their bitter taste. Whether, in removing their bitterness, it also destroys the properties of these substances, he does not say.

Association Intelligence.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN. [General.]	Yarborough Hotel, Grimsby.	Wednesday, Oct. 9th, 2 P.M.
BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES. [General.]	Med. Department of Birmingham Library, Union Street.	Thursday, October 10th.
SHROPSHIRE ETHICAL.	Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury.	Tuesday, October 15th, 1.30 P.M.

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting will be held at the School Room, Kettering, on Thursday, the 17th of October next, at 1 P.M.; Dr. FRANCIS, of Northampton, President.

Gentlemen who will furnish papers or cases, are requested to forward their titles by the 8th of October, to

DR. BRYAN, *Hon. Sec.*, Northampton.

ROCHESTER, MAIDSTONE, GRAVESEND, AND DARTFORD DISTRICT MEETINGS, IN CONNEXION WITH THE SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

THE first meeting for the present session was held (by permission of the Mayor) at the Town Hall, Gravesend, on Friday, September 27th. There were present twenty-one members and two visitors.

The President of the Branch, G. BOTTOMLEY, Esq., took the Chair at 3.30 P.M., and delivered a few remarks appropriate to the occasion.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Resolutions. It was resolved unanimously—

"That the most sincere and cordial thanks of the members of these District Meetings be given to Dr. DULVEY, for the efficient manner in which, for four years, he has discharged the duties of Honorary Secretary, and that he be requested to continue his services for another session."

"That this meeting desires to record its regret at the loss which it has sustained by the death of the late Mr. CULHANE, of Dartford."

Financial Statement. The Treasurer, Dr. MARTIN, then submitted the financial statement, which, having been duly audited, was signed by the President.

New Members. The following gentlemen were unanimously elected members of the Association and of the Branch, each having been proposed according to the laws of the Association:—George Henry Furber, Esq. (Maidstone); Robert Innes Nisbett, Esq. (Gravesend); and Egbert Charlton, Esq. (Dartford).

The annual subscription of half-a-crown was then paid to the Treasurer by each member present towards the expenses of these district meetings.

Communications. The following communications were read:—

1. On a Peculiar Type of Disease recently existing in Croydon and the neighbourhood. By the President.
2. A Case requiring Paracentesis Thoracis. By J. W. Woodfall, M.R.C.P.
3. Case of Ascites and Anasarca depending on Diseased Liver, and occurring in the *Fœtus in Utero*. By J. M. Burton, Esq.

These papers having been severally discussed, unanimous thanks were given to those gentlemen who had read them; and they were requested to allow them to be published in the JOURNAL of the Association.

Thanks also were voted to the Mayor of Gravesend,

for having granted the use of the Town Hall; and to the President, for his kindness in having come so great a distance to take the Chair.

The meeting then, at 5.30, adjourned to dinner.

Reports of Societies.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

Physiological Subsection.

The following are abstracts of some of the papers read in this subsection.

REPORT ON PRISON DIETARY AND DISCIPLINE. BY EDWARD SMITH, M.D., F.R.S.; AND W. R. MILNER, ESQ.

The authors of the Report remarked upon the diversity of rules and of employment in county gaols, and more particularly upon the wide differences in the dietary tables. It is customary to increase the amount of nutriment according to the duration of the imprisonment, and also to change the dietary from day to day. There is commonly an increased dietary given to those who are sentenced to hard labour; but the modes in which that labour is carried out vary much. The diet on the convict side of the Wakefield gaol is liberal and uniform. Mr. Milner, who has tabulated returns to show the variation of weight in the men during the first twelve months, states as follows:—During the first two months, the majority gained weight; in the second bimonthly period, a loss occurred equal to nearly twice the gain during the first period; in the third, there was still a loss, but not to so great an extent; and the remaining three periods showed a steadily increasing gain. These prisoners had been brought from other gaols after trial and sentence, so that they have passed through that time of anxiety following upon commitment, during which there is reason to think that they fall off very much in condition and health. In a large proportion of cases, Mr. Milner believed that this change is followed by a feeling of relief, and a reaction against previously existing depression; but later on the continued imprisonment begins to tell, and extra diet becomes necessary. With regard to prison employment, it was found that those who were kept at oakum-picking gained nearly 2 lbs. each; of men working at sedentary trades, as tailors, shoemakers, etc., the average gain was nearly 1¾ lb. per man; of carpenters, mechanics, and men employed in winding the yarn, who work standing, a smaller percentage gained weight, and the average was lower; of those employed in weaving canvas, making mats, etc., the majority lost weight. Amongst the hand-weavers of coir matting, 80 per cent. lost weight, the average loss being nearly 7 lbs. per man. Amongst the men employed in yarn and coir-picking, 26.8 had to be placed on extra diet; in the second group, 26.4 per cent.; third, 36.8; fourth, 39.4; while of the matting-weavers, 60.1 required additional food. The effect of milk in arresting loss of weight was found most striking. Thus the addition, upon Mr. Milner's recommendation, of a quarter of a pint of skimmed milk, containing not more than seven grains of nitrogen, to the daily dietary, caused a reduction in the extra diets from 22.35 per cent. in 1853 to 15.08 in the first nine months of 1854; to 15.27 in 1855, 14.08 in 1856, and to 9.56 in 1857. Experiments showed that the use of tea tended to lessen the weight of prisoners; and consequently that it was unsuited for extra diets. The results of experiments by Dr. Smith in the Coldbath Fields, Wandsworth, New Bailey (Salford), and Canterbury prisons, as to the effects of different kinds of labour, it was said, enabled a comparison to be made between the effects of the modes of punishment at the different gaols; and the results showed the great accuracy with which experience enables ordinary officials to regulate their systems of punishment to the full powers of endurance of the prisoners. Time for time, the effect of crank-labour is less than that of the treadwheel; but experience proves that the former is not inferior in severity to the latter, and, in the observation of many, has long been believed to exceed it. When the duration of the labour is considered, the effect of the crank at the New Bailey is so great that the treadwheel may be used as a relief from it. In comparing the effect of crank and treadwheel labour, it has been shown that the twelve-pound crank at Wandsworth and the so-called seven-pound crank at the New Bailey are equal time for time to that of the treadwheel at the New Bailey; and that the effect of the so-called nine-pound crank at the New Bailey is nearly equal to that of the treadwheel at Coldbath Fields; but, as the time of actual daily labour at the crank is double that on the treadwheel, the whole daily effect of the crank must be double that of the treadwheel. The Committee detailed the results of a considerable number of experiments as to the effects of prison discipline on the excretion of nitrogen and other substances. The Committee thought that the time was approaching when the whole subject of prison discipline must be reconsidered, and when a conclusion may be arrived at as to the propriety of continuing a system which, when practised, occasions a vast waste of the vital powers of the prisoners, and vast expenditure of money to provide a dietary, which, although scarcely sufficient, is far beyond that provided for the poor in workhouses, and beyond that obtained by the working classes in general. Steps should be taken to secure uniformity in discipline; and the mode of carrying out sentences should be proportioned to the crime. This might be done in the dietary, and yet allow of such varieties of food as might be found relatively economical in different parts of the kingdom. Instruments may be kept in proper order, and care be taken that the speed at which they are worked shall be uniform; the amount of a day's work would thus be the same throughout the kingdom, and the surgeon must decide as to the fitness of a particular person to perform the required task. A committee of scientific men, properly authorised by the Government, would find no difficulty in placing all this upon a proper basis. The effect of labour on the treadwheel and at the crank, as well as of "shot-drill", varies according to height, weight, age, and previous occupations; and must therefore be at all times objectionable. The Committee deferred their recommendation as to the exact adaptation of labour to supply of food; but, as it involves the fundamental question of the propriety of making the dietary an instrument of punishment, it was necessary *in limine* to decide it. The Committee affirmed that the food supplied on the lowest scale is so totally inadequate to the wants of the system that it can only be regarded as an instrument of punishment. That it is so regarded may be inferred from the dislike which old offenders have to short imprisonment with its low dietary, and by the value which magistrates attach to this their most formidable agent. A dietary of bread and water, or bread and gruel, cannot be enforced without injury to the prisoner's health. The Committee hoped that, on philanthropic grounds, the principle may be established that the prisoner shall not be so treated that when he leaves the gaol he shall be less able to earn his living than when he entered it; and that, punishment and reformation being sought together, some plan may be adopted which will accord with that principle. Bread is proved by the experiments of the Committee to be less nutritive than milk. Mere detention in prison lessens the power of assimilation, so that a greater quantity of food must be required for perform-

We must teach the public that in very many cases medicines—*i. e.*, drugs—are altogether useless; and that Nature would carry the patient through, wnether the physic were swallowed or no.

We must never allow the public to express any opinion as to our *professional* ability; and this can be the more easily done if, whenever they praise us, we tell them that for the present they are incapable of judging, and that their praise is as valueless as their censure in our estimation.

We must try to make the public value us for our education and culture, which enables us to give them sound opinions and valuable advice, and not for the physic they are made to swallow.

The work is difficult, and at its beginning dangerous to our pecuniary success; but, while we hesitate firmly to help it forward, let us not abuse those who are no worse than ourselves. Secret enemies are bad, and difficult to encounter; and it behoves us all to beware lest we are gradually destroying the respect which, as a body of highly educated gentlemen, we ought always to enjoy from the public. I am, etc.,

GEORGE EDWARDS JEAFFRESON.

Framlingham, Suffolk, Oct. 1861.

THE LATE MR. LISTON AND HOMŒOPATHY.

LETTER FROM W. H. MANIFOLD, ESQ.

SIR,—In justice to the memory of the late Mr. Liston, it is but fair to refer to the *Lancet* which Dr. Guinness mentions in his letter to our JOURNAL. There we shall find that Mr. Liston recommends the extract of aconite, but says nothing of homœopathy or its doses. Why Dr. Guinness should call aconite *our remedies*, I cannot conceive; and the pretended adhesion of Mr. Liston to homœopathy is simply untrue. As well might any one prescribing belladonna or arnica be said to bear testimony to this fallacy. I am, etc.,

W. HARGREAVES MANIFOLD.

P.S. Mr. Liston does not mention erysipelas in connexion with aconite.

Liverpool, Sept. 28th, 1861.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. At the Comitia Majora, held on Monday, September 30th, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, were duly admitted members of the College:—

Jackson, John Hughlings, M.D., Finsbury Circus
Rogers, Henry Philip, Mauritius

The following passed the preliminary examination in the subjects of general education, on Sept. 27th:—

Atkins, Charles Alfred, St. George's Hospital
Creaser, William Appleton, Hull
Cribb, Henry, Bishop's Stortford
Dawson, John, Great Yarmouth
Forman, Elijah Baxter, Guy's Hospital
Fox, Cornelius Benjamin, King's College
Francis, Alfred Ollivant, Brierley Hill
Long, Charles Frederick, Ipswich
Lyons, William, Portugal Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields
Manser, Frederick, Chatham
Myers, Charles John, Tottenham
Spooner, William, University College
Webb, John Holden, Devon and Exeter Hospital

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. At a special meeting of the Court of Examiners, on October 2nd,

Rose, Frederick Henry, Royal Naval Hospital, Ascension,

passed his examination for Naval Surgeon. This gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the College: his diploma bearing date May 19, 1854.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On Sept. 26th, the following licentiates were admitted:—

Ballender, John H. M., Sedgley, near Dudley
Clay, Arthur H., Stamford
May, Thomas F., Newcastle-upon-Tyne

APPOINTMENTS.

BRADDON, Charles H., Esq., appointed Physician's Assistant to the Manchester Royal Infirmary.
*DAVIES, Edward M.D., appointed Surgeon to the Wrexham Infirmary, in place of *William Rowland, Esq., resigned.
DAVIES, Edward M., M.D., of St. Michael's, Athenry, appointed to the Commission of the Peace for the County of Galway.
HUGHES, William H., Esq., appointed Physician's Assistant to the Manchester Royal Infirmary.
*ROWLAND, William, Esq., elected Consulting Surgeon to the Wrexham Infirmary.

ROYAL ARMY. The following appointments have been made:—

ALLANBY, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon J. S., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 95th Foot, *vice* Sharpe.
NIVEN, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon J., to be Assistant-Surgeon 82nd Foot, *vice* Spence.

ROYAL NAVY. The following appointments have been made:—

CRABBE, Benjamin, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Fisgard*.
ELLIOTT, Geo. F., Esq., Assist.-Surg. (additional), to the *Wellesley*.
EVANS, E. H., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to Greenwich Hospital.
GREENE, Francis, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *St. Vincent*.
LAWRENSON, R. E. P., Esq., Assist.-Surgeon, to Plymouth Hospital.
MCSORLEY, C., Esq., Surgeon (additional), to the *Nile*.
MAGRATH, M. M., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the Chatham Division of Marines.
MASON, Richard D., Esq., Staff-Surgeon, to be Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets.
PATERSON, James, M.D., Assist.-Surg. (additional), to the *Victory*.
SAUNDERS, W. M., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Britannia*.
SKENE, James A., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Hero*.

VOLUNTEER CORPS. The following appointments have been made (A.V.=Artillery Volunteers; R.V.=Rifle Volunteers):—

ARCHIBALD, D., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st Brigade Fifeshire A.V.
DEWAR, J., Esq., to be Surgeon 1st Brigade Fifeshire A.V.
EDWARDS, F. A., Esq., to be Surgeon 1st Administrative Battalion Staffordshire R.V.
MELLAND, F., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 6th Lancashire R.V.
SANDERS, C., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 22nd Essex R.V.
SANG, W. B., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st Newcastle-on-Tyne Engineer Volunteers.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

MACQUIBBAN, C. M., Esq., 7th Aberdeenshire A.V.
SOMER, J., Esq., 19th Cornwall R.V.
TRIPE, J. W., M.D., 1st Tower Hamlets Engineer Volunteers.

DEATHS.

BOND. On July 22nd, at Taku, China, aged 21, Lieutenant Henry Bond, Royal Artillery, only son of *Henry J. H. Bond, M.D., Cambridge.
CUSACK, James Wm., M.D., Surgeon in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland, etc., at Dublin, aged 73, on September 25.
*GODFREY, J., M.D., Senior Surgeon to the Bristol General Hospital, at Bristol, on September 27.
SMITH, Arthur W. W., Esq., Surgeon, at 24, Wilton Street, aged 36, on October 1st.
WHITLOCK. On August 19th, at Massuruni, Demerara, aged 3, Louisa Evelyn, only child of Hubert C. Whitlock, Esq., Resident Surgeon of the Penal Settlement, Rio Massuruni.

A FEE. M. Trousseau, an eminent physician of Paris, lately received £1,600 for a single visit to a patient in Naples. The patient was dead when he arrived. (*American Journal.*)

PROFESSOR HAMILTON was presented with an elegant sword by the ladies, when about leaving with his regiment for Washington. Several of his pupils also presented him a revolver.

ANISEED MIXED WITH HEMLOCK. These two plants being allowed to grow wild together in the Romagna, great carelessness appears to have been manifested in collecting the seeds thereof, and the consequence is that several cases of poisoning have occurred; the quantity in some instances, it is stated, of the hemlock being

equal to one-third of the weight. The French Government have, therefore, directed the merchants receiving consignments of it carefully to examine them. (*Dublin Hospital Gazette.*)

Medical Vacancies. The following appointments are vacant:—Visiting physician to the Seaham Harbour Infirmary, and consulting physician to the Sunderland General Infirmary and Dispensary, by the death of William Sedley Burn, M.D.; surgeon to Steevens' Hospital, Dublin, by the death of James William Cusack, M.D.; medical officer to the Bristol Dispensary. There is also a vacancy for a surgeon to the third district of the Eastbourne Poor-law Union, Sussex.

Lunacy Law in Scotland and England. No one (says Dr. Christison) conversant with the history of asylum law and practice in this country, can fail to have observed how much more satisfied and sound the tone of the public mind is in Scotland than in England, on the subject of restraint on account of insanity. In England, there has been for some time a timorous dread of iniquitous confinement; it is no uncommon event for actions at law, charging unjustifiable and malicious confinement, to prove successful; and the morbid feeling of the country has plainly led juries to take sometimes a prejudiced and unfair view against the defenders on such occasions. In Scotland, there is no fear on the part of the public that sane persons can be confined as insane: but, on the contrary, great confidence that impartial justice is rendered to all. Actions for wrongous confinement are rare, founded on frivolous pretences, and sometimes in themselves no small confirmation of insanity. Accordingly, no such prosecution, so far as I am aware, has hitherto found a jury on its side in any trial in Scotland.

Death of a Lunatic from Scalding. A lengthy inquiry has been held in Hanwell County Lunatic Asylum, on the body of a patient named William Edwards, whose death was occasioned by severe scalds in a bath. The deceased was sent from Marylebone Workhouse to the above asylum in September last. He was lunatic and suffering from paralysis, the latter affection producing dirty habits. On such occasions, he was subjected to a warm bath. On the 26th ultimo, a bath was about to be prepared for him by an attendant named Taylor, while another man, named Paris, undressed him in his room. Before the bath was ready Paris let the lunatic out in his shirt and boots, Taylor at the time having turned boiling water first into the bath. The patient, accordingly, stepped into the boiling water. Suffering the most excruciating agony, he was taken out and put upon a seat, when his boots were taken off. A consultation was then held between the two attendants as to what course should be adopted. They decided on sending for Dr. Ellis, who with Dr. Begley attended. The feet of deceased were dressed and he was put to bed. On the following day the unfortunate man was removed to the infirmary, where he lingered till the morning of Thursday, the 19th inst., when death terminated his sufferings. The jury, in accordance with the medical evidence, returned a special verdict to the effect that the deceased died from inflammation occasioned by his feet having become scalded accidentally by by his having stepped into the bath containing hot water only. The jurors added that there was great neglect on the part of the attendant, but that this neglect was caused by the want of proper rules in the asylum. They recommended that no patient in this asylum should be allowed to enter into the bathroom until the water was of a proper temperature.

Drainage-Tubes. A Paris correspondent of the *American Medical Times* writes as follows:—Monday, March 4. This morning at eight o'clock I took the omnibus out to Lariboisière, the hospital rendered famous by Chassaignac. About forty students followed him around the wards. I saw a great variety of abscesses in every possible situation, all with from one to four of his drainage-tubes traversing them. I saw one running through a scrofulous wrist-joint, and one between the second and third metacarpal bones, to drain a palmar abscess. A solution of nitrate of silver was applied to every sore with great impartiality. After the visit to the wards we repaired to the operating theatre, and witnessed the following operations:—1. Puncture of a simple abscess in the neck, and introduction of a drainage tube. 2. Removal of a large hæmorrhoid by the écraseur. The chain was tightened at intervals of from fifteen to thirty seconds. 3. Removal of a tonsil by the guillotine. 4. Incision required in fistula *in ano* made by écraseur. Here the chain was tightened every ten seconds. 5. Puncture of a hydrocele by a trocar, which made a double puncture, so as to allow of a drainage-tube being introduced through which the serum was evacuated. The drainage-tube was then withdrawn, having been dragged into the operation for no useful purpose; somewhat like the large hole through the door for the cat, and a small one for the kitten. Chassaignac makes use of trocars about a foot and a half long; why I know not, unless he has it in contemplation to put a drainage tube through some of the vital organs. He operates in all cases of cancer, and of course claims cures. A case was shown to-day of cancer involving all the tissues at the base of the tongue, upon which he proposes to operate. A boy was shown us in very good health, upon whom four months previously amputation at the hip-joint was performed for cancerous disease.

St. Thomas's Hospital. The distribution of prizes for the past session took place on Tuesday last, Oct. 1, 1861, at 8 P.M.; Alderman Sir John Musgrove, Bart., president, in the chair. The following were the successful candidates:—*Third Year's Students.* J. W. Hicks, Lower Clapton, college prize of £30 and honorary certificate; J. Fowler, Winterton, college prize of £20 and certificate; J. V. Bell, Rochester, college prize of £10 and certificate; J. Lees, Wolverhampton, M. C. Grabham, Islington, and W. F. Hunter, Margate, certificates. *Second Year's Students.* J. F. Deck, Nelson, New Zealand, college prize of £30 and certificate; G. Pearse, Salisbury, college prize of £20 and certificate; F. G. Brown, London, college prize of £10 and certificate; D. Biddle, Wooton-under-Edge, H. G. Shea, London, T. J. Jefferson, Hull, and J. D. Swallow, Reading, certificates. *First Year's Students.* C. A. Greaves, Derby, treasurer's prize of 30 guineas and certificate; F. H. Gervis, Tiverton, college prize of £20 and certificate; E. Sutcliffe, Camberwell, college prize of £10 and certificate; J. Whitehead, Preston, J. Morton, Holbeach, Lincoln, J. P. Way, Portsmouth, T. Britton, Doncaster, J. P. Purvis, Greenwich, and R. J. Scott, Omagh, Tyrone, certificates. *Matriculation Prizes. Classics and Mathematics:* H. Summerhayes, Crewkerne, president's prize of 20 guineas and certificate; F. P. Atkinson, Kew, certificate; and J. P. Purvis, Greenwich, certificate. *Modern Languages and Modern History:* H. Summerhayes, college prize £20, and certificate; C. A. Greaves, certificate. *Physics and Natural History:* H. Summerhayes, college prize £10, and certificate; F. H. Gervis, college prize £10, and certificate; E. Sutcliff, certificate. *The William Tite Scholarship:* H. Summerhayes, the interest of £1,000 consols, tenable for three years, and certificate. *Certificates of Honour to the Physicians' Clinical Clerks:* J. H. Armstrong; W. Adams; J. J. Barrett; D. Biddle; F. G. Brown; A. G. Cox; J. F. Deck; R. P. Fouracre; J. Gimblett; E. Goddard; C. M. Kempe; G. Pearce; H. G. Shea; J. H. Swallow; P. C. Shepheard; A. Towne; C. A. Waterworth. *Certificates of Honour to the Surgeons' Dressers:* J. H. Armstrong;

J. J. Barrett; D. Biddle; F. G. Brown; A. H. Clay; T. Corbett; J. F. Deck; J. Gimblett; E. Goddard; C. M. Kempe; F. S. La Trobe; W. Payne; G. Pearce; H. G. Shea; P. C. Shepheard; J. D. Swallow; A. Towne; C. A. Waterworth. *Physical Society:* J. W. Hicks, Society's third year's prize, and certificate; J. F. Deck, Society's second year's prize, and certificate. *Resident Accoucheurs:* I. H. Hooper; S. Chater; and J. V. Bell, certificates. *Surgical and Anatomical Medal:* J. W. Hicks. *For General Proficiency and Good Conduct:* J. W. Hicks, treasurer's gold medal.

Varieties.

A New Medical Light. One of that class of charlatans who disregard all palpable forms of deception, and at once appeal directly to man's love of the marvellous, is just now turning the heads and rifling the pockets of the chronics and cripples of New York. He discards all remedies, and relies entirely upon the touch of his inspired fingers. He is very devout, and is, of course, anxious to use this divine power for the good of his fellows. His door is besieged alike by the poor and the rich, who find ready admittance. Although he has practised his art for several weeks, there is no marked diminution in the number of the incurables, and still the public furor continues unabated, fanned by the daily papers. Such credulity and actual stupidity as are manifested by those who become dupes of this impostor, are humiliating to witness. (*American Med. Times.*)

Origin of Species. To attempt to trace any natural production to its origin, or its first production, is ridiculous: for it goes back to that period, if ever such existed, of which we can form no idea, viz., the beginning of time. But, I think, we have reason to suppose there was a period in time in which every species of natural production was the same; there then being no variety in any species; but the variations taking place on the surface of the earth, such as the earth and water changing situations, which is obvious; as also the change in the poles or ecliptic, which I think is also obvious. The varieties (so produced) are but few, and are still existing in what may be called the "natural" animal. Also civilisation has made varieties in many species, and without number, which are the "domesticated."

Doctors on Horseback. In rural practice, doctors in early times, from necessity, rode on horseback, and for a long period, previously to the reign of Charles II, it was the custom of physicians in London to ride on horseback, sitting sideways on the saddle, after the manner of ladies. The illustrious Harvey is pictured as "riding on horseback, with a foot-cloth, to visit his patients; his man following on foot, as the fashion then was, was very decent, now quite discontinued." But, previously to that period, in the year 1563, Dr. Langton, it is said, "rid in a car with a gown of damask, lined with velvet, and a coat of velvet, and a cap of the same." At a later period, the last century, Jenner is pictured as riding on horseback, "dressed in a blue coat and yellow buttons, buckskins, well polished jockey boots, with handsome silver spurs, and a smart whip with a silver handle."

The Administration Générale de l'Assistance Publique at Paris is almost a sort of ministry, rivalling in importance the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of War, the Ministry of Worship and Public Instruction, or any other branch of the government. Its office is a large building close to Notre Dame. It manages the affairs of all hospitals, infirmaries, almshouses, foundling hospitals, out-door and in-door relief, and every other public act of charity connected with the department of the Seine. Its powers are very great; lately, it has established hospitals of convalescence for sick persons recovering from illnesses, who have been treated in hospitals proper, or elsewhere; and we see that it has sent scrofulous children to the sea-side. It has immense revenues at its disposal, roughly estimated at from two hundred and fifty thousand, to three hundred thousand pounds sterling per annum. It levies a tribute of ten per cent. on the profits of all theatrical performances, balls, concerts, circuses, and amusements of every kind, in Paris. It has landed property, interest from funds, payments from public markets, profits of the Mont-de-Piété, or Public Pawnbroker, a good slice out of the income of the *octroi* tax, besides the special endowments of the hospitals, etc. The whole of this money must be expended on charitable purposes only, and not on paving, drainage, or any other work of public utility, however recommendable. Any one who has served for thirty years in a hospital, or other charitable establishment in Paris, is entitled to a maintenance for life from the Administration Générale de l'Assistance Publique. It will be seen, therefore, what an enormous power for good is wielded by the director-general. (*All the Year Round.*)

The Horrors of Dyspepsia. With due attention to temperance, exercise, and early hours, you may set dyspepsia at defiance. Neglect one of these precautions and you lay yourself open to the approaches of the enemy; neglect two of them, and it is hardly possible that you can escape. And above all things keep this in mind, that no other disease or affection of the body is so stealthy or insidious as dyspepsia. If the first few instances of carelessness or transgression were to be visited with the pains and penalties that afflict the patient when the malady has become chronic, few men would be so unwise or so obstinately reckless as to postpone the work of reformation. But the earlier symptoms are rarely of an alarming kind. The appetite is not sensibly affected although the digestion is impaired, and the complaint seems for a time to be limited to flatulency and heartburn. Such unpleasant sensations, however, can be easily removed. Essence of ginger and fluid magnesia seldom fail to give relief, and the patient flatters himself that there is no ground for apprehension. But the symptoms do not disappear. They recur with greater frequency, and the antidotal doses, although increased, are found to have lost their efficiency. The stomach has now become more seriously deranged. All kinds of food generate acid, and in this stage the patient usually has recourse to the carbonates of soda or potash, which in their turn give a temporary relief, though without in any way arresting the disorder. By this time dyspepsia, like an insidious serpent, has fairly folded the victim within its embrace, and is squeezing him at his leisure. Everything he eats disagrees with him and seems to undergo some wondrous transformation. That which was served up at table as a haggis seems converted, two hours afterwards, into a ball of knotted tow; a mutton-chop becomes a fiery crab, rending the interior with its claws; and even rice-pudding has the intolerable effrontery to become ramified as a hedgehog. After that come nausea and vomiting. You derive no benefit from the food you swallow. From twelve stone weight you dwindle down to ten. Your countenance becomes ghastly, your eyes hollow, and you totter prematurely on your pins. The mere notion of exercise becomes distasteful. You feel as if you had no strength for anything. You are pensive, moody, and irritable. Your mind loses its elasticity and power, and when you sit down to compose, instead of manly matter you produce nothing but the dreariest drivel. (*Blackwood.*)

India-rubber Varnish. That India-rubber dissolved in various liquids yields a good varnish is well known;

but in general they are too viscid for delicate purposes, and are only good for making stuffs waterproof. India-rubber liquefied by heat, dissolved in oil of coal-tar, or drying linseed-oil, does not give a varnish of sufficient fluency, or free from smell. Moreover, a considerable quantity of India-rubber remains undissolved in a gelatinous state, suspended in the liquid, so that the solution is never clear. Dr. Bolley has recently published some remarks on this subject which may be useful. If India-rubber be cut into small pieces and digested in sulphuret of carbon, a jelly will be formed; this must be treated with benzine, and thus a much greater proportion of caoutchouc will be dissolved than would be done by any other method. The liquid must be strained through a woollen cloth, and the sulphuret of carbon be drawn off by evaporation in a water bath; after which the remaining liquid may be diluted at will with benzine, by which means a transparent, but still yellowish liquid will be obtained. A more colourless solution may be prepared by digesting India-rubber cut into small pieces for many days in benzine, and frequently shaking the bottle which contains it. The jelly thus formed will partly dissolve, yielding a liquid which is thicker than benzine, and may be obtained very clear by filtration and rest. The residue may be separated by straining, and will furnish an excellent waterproof composition. As for the liquid itself, it incorporates easily with all fixed or volatile oils. It dries very fast, and does not shine, unless mixed with resinous varnishes. It is extremely flexible, may be spread in very thin layers, and remain unaltered under the influence of air and light. It may be employed to varnish geographical maps or prints, because it does not affect the whiteness of the paper, does not reflect light disagreeably as resinous varnishes do, and is not subject to crack or come off in scales. It may be used to fix black chalk or pencil drawings; and unsized paper, when covered with this varnish, may be written on with ink.

Hatching Young Ostriches. Since the French occupation of Algeria, ostriches have been conveyed thence to France in great numbers; but, until the instance now to be recorded, a brood had never been produced in France. It is very difficult, under the necessary restraint of a zoological garden, to supply the necessary conditions for bringing about this result. The attempt had been frequently made to do so in the Zoological gardens of Marseilles, but as frequently failed. Even last year, notwithstanding the care devoted to the ostriches in that establishment, and though eggs were laid in plenty, no young ostriches could be hatched. The director, M. Suquet, however, was not to be foiled. Failing to accomplish what he desired in the gardens, he bethought himself of trying what could be done out of them. In the territory of Montredon he selected a sandy plain, situated between the sea and the mountains which form the south-east of the Gulf of Marseilles. The spot belongs to M. Pastre, who kindly gave the necessary co-operation. There a large secluded valley was fixed upon, sufficiently wooded to afford shelter, without intercepting the sunshine necessary for quickening the eggs. After having enclosed a space 600 *metrès* long by 500 wide, the birds were conveyed to their hatching ground on March 2nd of this year. For a few days the birds seemed to regard their new quarters with suspicion, and ran anxiously about. Soon, however, they settled themselves and began laying. Their nest was at first a simple excavation in the sand, in the form of a truncated cone. Gradually the borders of this hole were heightened by accumulations of more sand. At this labour the male and female bird worked alternately. A few hours after the completion of the nest laying began, and was continued every alternate day, until by the 20th of April fifteen eggs had been deposited. Up to this time the hen guarded the nest a few hours before and after incubation, sometimes for a whole day. After April 20th, however, the male bird commenced taking his spell of watching, the lady only seeing to the household during periods when her lord and master was temporarily absent from home. All seemed to go on satisfactorily. According to observations made by M. Hardy, at Algiers, the time of incubation should be from fifty-six to sixty days. Knowing this, M. Suquet was surprised when, on June 3rd, intelligence came that the first young ostrich had opened its eyes to sunshine on French soil. By the evening eleven had been hatched. On the day following the young birds left the nest and began to wander over their enclosure, guided alternately by papa and mamma, who spared no trouble in this their first walking lesson. During these excursions one bird always lingered a little behind. It was weak, and soon died, thus reducing the number of the young family to ten. They went on growing rapidly, so that by the 8th of this month (August) they were as big as young turkeys, giving every promise of arriving in due time at years of discretion, and contributing for many a season to the *grande tenue* of many a fair Parisienne.

M. Du Chaillu's Narrative. Our opinion on the merits of the volume, which contains the record of M. Du Chaillu's adventures during this period (from October 1855 to June 1859), may be stated very simply. We have read M. Du Chaillu's pages with great interest, and have derived much instruction from them. We believe his narrative to be true, or as true as the narrative of any traveller of M. Du Chaillu's stamp—drawn up as it has probably been from rough and imperfectly kept notes, assisted by the efforts of a rather vivid imagination and a not very perfect memory—is likely to be. M. Du Chaillu has no doubt made a chaos of his dates. The birds discovered during the Cape Lopez expedition, which, according to his book, appears not to have taken place until 1857, were certainly safe in the stores of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, on the other side of the Atlantic, in October 1856; and were worked out and described by Mr. Cassin before the end of the following December. M. Du Chaillu has no doubt "borrowed" many of his illustrations, and has committed the additional error of not acknowledging his debts in this respect. This, we think, may be easily explained by the fact of his having employed an American artist, who was not in the habit of drawing pictures of beasts and birds, and found it more easy to copy Mr. Wolf's and other originals, than to invent attitudes of his own. As we have already suggested, M. Du Chaillu can lay no claim to the title of a scientific naturalist. He who speaks of "humming birds" (p. 37), deer (p. 71), vampires (p. 112), and anacondas (p. 273) in Africa; who calls a hornbill (*toccus camurus*) a toucan (p. 170); who kills "venomous" snakes "a little over thirteen feet long" (p. 57); who terms *bos brachyceros* "a new and hitherto undescribed species of buffalo" (p. 175) while he uses a name given to it twenty-five years ago; who "feels the breath of a serpent against his face" (p. 273); and who "turns turtles" in fresh water lakes, and then classes them among the *mammalia* in his list of newly discovered species, is no doubt a vigorous voyager and a lively narrator, but wants the knowledge and sobriety of a man of science. And we are not at all surprised, therefore, at his making out his mammals to be new species, when certainly the greater number of them have been described long ago. "Every man thinks his own geese to be swans;" and the error of describing old species as new is of such ordinary occurrence, that we fear there is scarcely a living naturalist who could wash his hands and say that he was innocent of the offence. M. Du Chaillu cannot even fairly claim to be a scientific traveller, for he took no observations, either astronomical, barometrical, meteorological, or thermometrical; he determined neither heights nor dis-

tances; and did not even keep his journal with sufficient accuracy to prevent his making such errors in the dates of his book, as, we have been informed by one of his critics in the *Athenæum*, have led him to cram four Julys into three years. On the other hand, it must be evident, that such errors as we have last described are of the very kind that any one, intentionally deceiving, would most avoid. And we consider M. Du Chaillu, in spite of these, not inconsiderable, shortcomings, to be an energetic and active explorer, who has entered a region never before discovered by civilised man, who has seen and hunted the gorilla in his native wilds, and brought back a mass of information concerning this interesting "anthropoid" and his kith and kin among the apes. And we wholly repudiate the theory of those who broadly hint, that his whole story is a myth, that his most positive statement cannot be depended upon, and that he probably passed his three years and eight months vegetating on the coast, and obtained his natural history specimens by barter with the natives at different ports. It is, we fear, owing to the somewhat over-zealous way in which he has been taken up and made a "lion" of that M. Du Chaillu has provoked such severe criticisms upon his performance; such, indeed, as in our opinion ought not to have been put forward, until the most positive and satisfactory evidence of the untruth of his statements had been obtained. (*Natural History Review*, July 1861.)

The Rapidity of Growth in Fungi. Mr. Ward, in his work *On the Growth of Plants in Closely-glazed Cases*, says of it:—"I had been struck with the published accounts of the extraordinary growth of the *phallus impudicus*. I therefore procured three or four specimens in an undeveloped state, and placed them in a small glazed case. All but one grew during my temporary absence from home. I was determined not to lose sight of the last specimen; and observing one evening that there was a small rent in the volva, indicating the approaching development of the plant, I watched it all night, and at 8 o'clock in the morning the summit of the pileus began to push through the jelly-like matter with which it was surrounded. In the course of twenty-five minutes it shot up three inches, and attained its full elevation of four inches in one hour and a half. Marvellous are the accounts of the rapid growth of cells in the fungi; but in the above instance it cannot for a moment be imagined that there was any increase in the number of the cells, but merely an elongation of the erectile tissue of the plant." The force developed by this rapid growth and increase of the cells of fungi is truly astonishing. M. Bulliard relates that on placing a fungus within a glass vessel the plant expanded so rapidly that it shivered the glass to pieces with an explosive detonation as loud as that of a pistol; while Dr. Carpenter, in his *Elements of Physiology*, mentions that "in the neighbourhood of Basingstoke a paving stone, measuring 21 in. square, and weighing 83lb., was completely raised an inch and a half out of its bed by a mass of toadstools of from six to seven inches in diameter, nearly the whole pavement of the town being heaved up by the same cause." Every one has heard of the portentous growth of the fungi in a gentleman's cellar, produced by the decomposing contents of a wine cask, which, being too sweet for immediate use, was allowed to stand unmolested for several years. The door in this case was blocked up and barricaded by the monstrous growth, and when forcible entrance was obtained the whole cellar was found completely filled, the cask which had caused the vegetable revel, drained of its contents, being triuphantly elevated to the roof, as it were upon the shoulders of the bacchanalian fungi. (*Macmillan's Footnotes from the Page of Nature.*)

Hints to Good Digestion. If to digest our food, we should enjoy it, it should, of course, be taken leisurely, and in a pleasant frame of mind. The cheerful society of friends should not be absent. Chatted food, the proverb says, is half digested. And the longer time spent over the meal thus socially enjoyed has its part in the benefit. Next to anxiety, the worst foe to digestion is hurry; and this for several reasons. The stomach, in its normal action, contracts on each morsel as it is swallowed, and relaxes again to receive the next. Insufficient time allowed for this interferes with the rhythm of its movements, and disorders the play of its muscles. Cramps and painful feelings of distension could have no more likely cause. That haste cuts short mastication is obvious; and on the perfection of that process chiefly depends the rapidity with which the solution of the food can be effected. Again, it creates an artificial thirst, partly by not allowing time for the due admixture of saliva; and, above all, it deprives us of the natural guide to the proper amount of the food, and remits almost to chance a decision than which scarcely any is more important to our well-being. For the natural indication of a sufficiency of food is the feeling of satisfaction; not *satiety*, which is always a symptom of excess; but a feeling of perfect comfort, the true luxury of eating. This feeling the hurried eater cannot know; it never exists for him. Either the unnatural violence to the stomach induces a premature feeling of repletion, and stints him of his due supply, or he eats on until the warning (which ever comes too late) of satiety arrests him. But perhaps it is in vain to protest, to hurried men, against hurry in their eating; and it is well, therefore, that there exists a means by which its ill effects will be, to a great degree, escaped. *Meat* may be eaten rapidly; if cut small, even with very little mastication. Animal food, if well divided, may be, without much risk, almost *bolted*; but vegetable food may not. The reason of this difference is, that the digestion of the former is carried on entirely by the secretions of the internal organs; that of the latter depends, in considerable part, upon the action of the saliva. If, therefore, little time can be secured for a meal, a chop may be swallowed rapidly, and bread, fish, or dried fruit, etc., taken afterwards at leisure—when riding, perhaps, or at such intervals as may occur. By acting on this plan, a tolerable digestion may be secured, even by those whose avocations compel them to compress their set times for eating into the most inadequate compass. The rapidity with which the carnivora consume their prey, and the slow feeding of the vegetable-eaters, confirm this rule. (From an article on "Food—how to take it", in the *Cornhill Magazine.*)

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

Monday.....Royal Free, 2 p.m.—Metropolitan Free, 2 p.m.
Tuesday. .... Guy's, 1½ p.m.—Westminster, 2 p.m.
Wednesday... St. Mary's, 1 p.m.—Middlesex, 1 p.m.—University College, 2 p.m.—Royal Orthopædic, 2 p.m.
Thursday.....St. George's, 1 p.m.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 p.m.—London, 1·30 p.m.—Great Northern, 2 p.m.—London Surgical Home, 2 p.m.
Friday. ..... Westminster Ophthalmic, 1·30 p.m.
Saturday..... St. Thomas's, 1 p.m.—St. Bartholomew's, 1·30 p.m.—King's College, 1·30 p.m.—Charing Cross, 2 p.m.

POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—September 28, 1861.

[*From the Registrar-General's Report.*]

		Births.	Deaths.
During week.....	Boys .. 925 / Girls .. 923	1848	1108
Average of corresponding weeks 1851-60		1659	1208

Barometer:
Highest (Fri.) 29.807; lowest (Wed.) 29.166; mean 29.459.
Thermometer:
Highest in sun—extremes (Mon.) 115 degs.; (Sun.) 79 degs.
In shade—highest (Fri.) 66.2 degrees; lowest (Fri.) 37.7 degs.
Mean—53.8 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.—1.1 deg.
Range—during week, 24.5 degrees; mean daily, 15.5 degrees.
Mean humidity of air (*saturation*=100), 85.
Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.92.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

Monday. Medical, 8.30 P.M.: Opening of the Session; Paper by W. Coulson, Esq., President.

Wednesday. North London Medical, 8 P.M.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** *All letters and communications for the* Journal, *to be addressed to the* Editor, 37, *Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.*

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following Laws of the Association will be strictly enforced:—

15. The subscription to the Association shall be One Guinea annually; and each member on paying his subscription shall be entitled to receive the publications of the Association of the current year. The subscriptions shall date from the 1st of January in each year, and shall be considered as due unless notice of withdrawal be given in writing to the Secretary on or before the 25th of December previous. If any member's subscription remain unpaid twelve months after it shall have become due, the publications of the Society shall be withheld from such member until his arrears be paid.

16. The name of no member shall remain on the books of the Association, whose arrears extend over three years; but the omission of the name from the list of members shall not be deemed, either in honour or equity, to relieve any member from his liability for the subscriptions due for the period during which he has availed himself of the privileges of membership.

Philip H. Williams, M.D., *General Secretary.*

Worcester, October 1861.

Communications have been received from:—Mr. James Dulvey; Dr. C. M. Durrant; Mr. C. F. Maunder; Dr. Graily Hewitt; Dr. A. T. H. Waters; Dr. Styrap; Mr. Soelberg Wells; Dr. Munroe; Mr. T. Fentem; Mr. V. Jackson; Dr. R. Fowler; Mr. McDermott; Mr. R. Wiseman; Mr. Bottomley; Mr. J. M. Burton; Dr. Woodfall; Mr. Richard Barwell; Mr. M. Foster; Dr. Bryan; Mr. Oliver Pemberton; Dr. N. P. Jones; Dr. E. Davies; Dr. J. B. Harrison; Mr. W. H. Manifold; Mr. R. Griffin; and Mr. Stone.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. An Introduction to Practical Chemistry, including Analysis. By John E. Bowman, F.C.S. Edited by Charles L. Bloxam. Fourth edition. London: 1861.
2. Medical Jurisprudence. By Alfred Swaine Taylor, M.D., F.R.S. Seventh edition. London: 1861.
3. A Manual of the Dissection of the Human Body. By Luther Holden, F.R.C.S. Second edition. London: 1861.
4. A Manual of the Practice of Medicine. By George Hilaro Barlow, M.D. Second edition. London: 1861.
5. On the Sounds Caused by the Circulation of the Blood. By Arthur Leared, B.A., M.D. London: 1861.
6. Mentone and the Riviera as a Winter Climate. By J. Henry Bennet, M.D. London: 1861.
7. Eastbourne as a Resort for Invalids. By W. A. Smith, M.D., and C. C. Hayman, M.D. London: 1861.

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