

character of the examinations which they impose upon candidates for the License, is still a source of discredit to the profession and of injury to the public interests. So long as the Council is mainly composed of special representatives of every one of those Examining Boards, there is little probability of this great evil being remedied.

Some of the Examinations in Medicine and Surgery are still conducted only by written and *viva voce* questions and answers; the practical and only secure tests afforded by examination in the wards of a hospital being almost or altogether neglected.

The Council have entirely failed to deal satisfactorily with that part of professional education, corresponding to the old training by apprenticeship. This subject, which is one of general professional importance, remains in a state of confusion and perplexity.

The efforts of the Council, carried on for years to obtain an Amended Medical Act for the purpose of making effective that Clause of the Act which aims at protecting the public by preventing unqualified persons from assuming medical titles, have failed to command the due attention and effective assistance of the Government and the interposition of the Legislature. In this respect, Great Britain is behind, at least, one of the Colonies.

How is it that the Council, after ten years of assiduous labour, have not succeeded in remedying these serious and self-evident evils?

The Council have endeavoured to improve Medical Education, to discourage irregular practice, and to strengthen and raise the position of the profession, and protect the interests of the public; but these efforts have been comparatively fruitless.

What, then, are the causes that have so largely neutralised the able and well-directed efforts of the Council? They are mainly these:

1. The defective composition of the Council as a representative body;
2. The want of external support; and
3. The want of power.

1. The composition of the Council in itself neutralises many of the best efforts of the body. Ten universities and nine licensing bodies are represented by seventeen members; while, in addition to these, the Government nominates six. Thus three-fourths of the members are sent from those very bodies that control medical education, and that are, or ought to be, in their turn controlled by the Medical Council. Disinterested as are the individual members of the Council, high as is their general purpose, they yet do unconsciously neutralise each other's aims by their conflicting interests, and by the natural reserve and delicacy with which, as themselves representing corporations, they exercise control over each other. Admirable as are the Government nominees in their individual capacity, yet some of them are so connected with the bodies already fully represented, that they may not unnaturally incline, in a greater or less degree, to their interests. Granting, however, that they have every desire to support the interests of the public and the profession, even when at issue with those of the corporations, they are too few in number to control the decisions of the Council, and have behind them too small a force supporting them in their action and impelling them to exertion.

2. The profession, as a body, take comparatively little interest in the proceedings of the Council as at present constituted; and the quickening powers of public opinion and support are, therefore, lost to it.

3. It is not needful to speak here of the importance—indeed, necessity—of the increased power and more clearly defined authority of the Council; for it is self-evident that, without such power and definite authority, the Council cannot efficiently control the licensing bodies, or prevent disqualified or unqualified persons from assuming professional titles and practising under delusive pretences, to the great injury of the public, and to the discredit of the profession to which they falsely pretend to belong.

The remedy for the state of things just described is to be found in a new and amended Act, which, besides increasing and defining the powers of the Council, shall include, as its most important provision, the direct representation of the profession in the Council.

If representatives of the profession are added to the Council in the proportion of one-fourth of the total number of members, the present pro-

portion of Government nominees being likewise preserved, many of the existing clogs to the efficient action of the Council, due in considerable part to the balancing of the various interests, will be removed. The legitimate influence of the great Educating and Licensing Bodies will still be maintained; but force, unity of direction, and definite purpose, will replace the existing inadequacy of the action of the Council.

On these grounds, the Committee of Council urge upon the members of the Association to impress the candidates for Parliament and the members of the Legislature and the Government, that, in order to secure the interests of the public and the welfare of the profession, any future Bill for the amendment of the Medical Act, ought to include a clause for the DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF THE PROFESSION IN THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

FRANCIS SIBSON, President of the Council of the British Medical Association.

EDWARD WATERS, Chairman and Convener of the Committee.

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, Secretary.

SPEAR v. DOIDGE: DEFENCE FUND.

Committee—J. Kempthorne, Esq., Callington; J. H. Willis, Esq., Lewdown; D. Thompson, Esq., Launceston. *Treasurer*—E. Pethybridge, Esq., Launceston Bank. *Honorary Secretary*—Mr. G. M. Gifford, Bellevue, Launceston. To either of these, or to the editors of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, 37 Great Queen Street, and of the *Medical Times and Gazette*, Burlington Street, subscriptions may be paid.

The following is the subscription list at present:—

	£	s.		£	s.
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gumber	1	1	T. Langton, Esq., London	0	10

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A MEETING of this Society was held on Thursday, October 22nd, at the White Hart Inn, Reigate. Dr. HOLMAN took the chair at 4 P.M.; and twenty-nine gentlemen, members of the Society and visitors, were present.

The late Mr. Bottomley, of Croydon.—A resolution, recording the regret of the Society at the death of Mr. Bottomley, was proposed by Mr. BERNAY, seconded by Dr. WESTALL, and carried unanimously.

Next Meeting.—It was arranged that the next meeting of the Society should be held at Croydon on Thursday, December 17th.

Papers.—1. Mr. C. R. THOMPSON read a paper on the Use of the Fillet in Midwifery, especially in Occipito-posterior Presentations. Mr. Thompson received the thanks of the meeting for his valuable paper.

2. Dr. BRAXTON HICKS read a paper on the Pathology of Puerperal Convulsions.

3. Dr. WALTERS furnished a brief account of a curious case, in which, in spite of Prolapsus of the Uterus, with considerable Hæmorrhagic Discharge, at the third month of Pregnancy, the organ being returned, the full period of gestation was accomplished, and the patient delivered of a healthy child.

Dinner.—The dinner took place at 6 P.M., Dr. Holman in the chair, and was attended by nearly all who were present at the meeting.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE next meeting is appointed to be held at Maidstone, at the General Hospital, on Tuesday, November 10th, at 4.15 P.M.; HENRY W. JOY, Esq., F.R.C.S., in the Chair. Dinner at the Star Hotel, at 6.45 P.M.

A paper by Dr. Monckton: "Remarks and Illustrations of some forms of Arterial Disease."

Dr. Gramshaw will propose the appointment of a Permanent Medical-Ethical Committee for the District.

FREDERICK JAMES BROWN, M.D., *Hon. Secretary.*

Rochester, October 27th, 1868.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT MEDICAL MEETINGS.

THE next meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Fountain Hotel, Canterbury, on Thursday, November 26th, at 3 P.M.—Dinner at 5 P.M.

ROBERT L. BOWLES, *Hon. Secretary.*

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 1868.

JOHN McNAUGHT, M.D., President, in the Chair.

THIS was the first ordinary meeting of the present session. An interesting Introductory Address was delivered by the President. It has been determined, as an experiment, to hold the meetings weekly during this session, and to devote them alternately to the exhibition of pathological specimens, and the reading of papers and cases.

PATHOLOGICAL MEETING, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 1868.

A. B. STEELE, Esq., in the Chair.

Dr. ROBERTS exhibited three Urinary Calculi, with Diseased Urinary Organs. The patient from whom they were removed had been known to have suffered from calculus and enlarged prostate for some time. He was admitted into the Northern Hospital in a very low state, the tongue being very brown and dry. He said he had no pain or other symptom, except the excessive debility. He rapidly sank, and died in a few days. At the *post mortem* examination the stomach and intestines were found much contracted in various parts, the former assuming an almost hour-glass shape. A portion of the jejunum had also become invaginated to the extent of about two inches. The bladder contained about two ounces of a thick white fluid and three calculi, one about the size of a pigeon's egg, and the other two about the size of beans; they were composed of uric acid. The bladder was very much contracted, its walls thickened, and its mucous membrane in an unhealthy condition. The prostate gland was enormously enlarged, its middle lobe projecting into the bladder, forming a large prominence, and having a deep pouch behind it. The kidneys were small, contracted, and nodular, and on section a quantity of purulent-looking fluid escaped from small abscesses near the surface. The section was very pale, and there was hardly any distinction between the cortical and medullary substances. A large portion of the kidney structures had degenerated. The other organs of the body were very healthy.

Mr. HARRISON introduced a man, the whole of the outer portion of whose Hand had been crushed on a railway, only the thumb having been left entire. Mr. Harrison amputated, merely leaving the thumb, and the case had gone on very successfully.—Mr. BICKERTON remarked that it was usually very dangerous to go so near the point of injury after railway accidents. He thought Mr. Harrison had done good service to the patient in leaving what he had, as an artificial hand could easily be fixed.—Dr. OXLEY, Mr. HIGGINSON, and Dr. WHITTLE also made some observations on the case.

Dr. BRADWOOD brought forward three cases of Foreign Bodies impacted in the Alimentary Canal. A nurse at the Carlisle Infirmary was taking some bread and milk, and struck the vessel containing it against the mantel-piece; she took a few spoonfuls more, and then complained that she had swallowed something. The finger was passed down, and afterwards the pharyngeal forceps, but nothing could be detected; a stomach-pump tube was passed easily down into the stomach, and she swallowed water and dry bread; she afterwards worked and went to bed; but soon after complained of difficulty of breathing and inability to lie down, while there was a pain over the pit of the stomach, ex-

tending to the spine. The tube was again passed without any hindrance, and diluent drinks ordered; she afterwards had dysphagia as well as dyspnoea, and next morning there was emphysema of the right side of the neck. Steam inhalations, with poultices, relieved her, but in the evening she became worse; the emphysema extended, and she died next day. On opening the oesophagus nothing was observed in the front wall; but in the posterior wall was a small lacerated wound, extending into the posterior mediastinum. A sharp-edged triangular piece of porcelain was found in an abscess in the mediastinum, where it had probably been forced by muscular action, as there had not been the slightest obstruction to the passage of the tube.—A medical man had seen a girl on the eighth day of typhoid fever when she was going on very satisfactorily; and on the tenth day a certificate of death was asked for, but he refused to give it; and a *post mortem* examination was ordered. On passing the hand to the back of the tongue something soft could be felt, and it was found there was a handkerchief impacted there, almost the whole of which had passed down the oesophagus. The middle portion of the handkerchief was deepest, and the ends were hanging out. The account given was that the patient asked for a sleeping draught, and when the nurse went out for it she heard a noise, and, on returning, the patient said she had swallowed her handkerchief; she struggled, and was held down, and no attempt being made to remove the handkerchief, and, no medical man being sent for, she died. The case was nearly brought in one of manslaughter, as it was doubtful whether the patient could have consciously forced down the handkerchief to such an extent.—A boy, while fishing, swallowed a fish-hook, which was removed by the forceps under chloroform. In connection with the second case, Dr. OXLEY observed that he had seen a hysterical patient put a handkerchief into her mouth, and this girl might have done the same, and then swallowed it.—Mr. BICKERTON thought it would be impossible for it to be done by anyone else.—Dr. BANKS was of the same opinion, and alluded to a case in a girl, who had put a mass of wisp down her oesophagus.

Mr. HARRISON shewed a specimen of Atrophy of the Bones of the Fore-arm. The patient was a woman, aged 50, who was admitted into the Infirmary suffering from apparently strumo-syphilitic disease of the arm and face. The whole of the right upper extremity was atrophied, and there was extensive unhealthy ulceration of the upper arm. A probe passed down came into contact with the bone, which was soft and easily broken down. As she was sinking, and her constitution giving way, it was decided to amputate at the shoulder joint. There was no difficulty in the operation, and the artery was compressed by the fingers. She suffered much from shock, but rallied after stimulants; vomiting then came on, which continued incessantly for a week, but ceased on stopping the stimulants; the patient was then going on satisfactorily. On opening the fore-arm the bones were found much diminished in length and circumference, the shortening was due to destruction of the ends of the bone. The humerus was fractured obliquely just above its lower extremity, but there was no history of any injury here. The other structures were all lost in a fatty gelatinous mass.—Mr. BICKERTON thought the syphilitic origin of the atrophy doubtful, but that it was rather due to loss of nutrition from some vascular obstruction or interference with the nervous supply.

Mr. BANKS shewed a Diseased Spinal Cord which was removed from the body of a young woman who, while resisting a criminal assault upon her, wrenched her back violently over the arm of a sofa. She complained of pain at the seat of the strain and pricking in the legs, but there was no loss of power in them. Next day the lower limbs became weak, and this feeling rapidly increased, so that in an hour she was almost completely paraplegic. She was taken to the Infirmary, but died on the tenth day with sloughing, etc.

On *post mortem* examination, no fracture or dislocation was found, nor were there any of the ligaments ruptured or particularly stretched. The outer envelopes of the cord were dilated with serum, a quantity of which escaped on opening them. There was only a small quantity of lymph under the arachnoid. On making a longitudinal incision through the cord, it was found completely disintegrated and acutely softened, all connection having been cut off between the parts above and below. This disintegration involved the whole thickness of the cord for about half an inch. This case proved that the cord could be severely injured without any injury to the bones.

Mr. HAKES remarked, that in this case sensibility returned rather suddenly over the lower part of the abdomen and upper parts of the thighs about three days before death, and remained a few hours.—Mr. BICKERTON and Dr. OXLEY made some observations on the case. Mr. BANKS, in replying, said this case was important in connection with railway accidents, as the same changes might take place by a chronic process. Mr. BICKERTON stated that, in more than 1,400 cases of railway injuries, he had never met with anything of the kind.

dispensary tickets, and 795 visiting tickets, making in all 2,715. Thus the very comparison made by Dr. Russell told against himself; and it was shown also that Dr. Cuppage's salary was raised to £100 a year because the Poor-law Commissioners insisted on his residing in a poor country district, where he had little or no private practice to depend on; whereas the rapid increase of Lurgan added to Dr. Russell's private practice, and increased the amount of his fees for registration and vaccination. The increase was therefore unanimously refused.

OBITUARY.

SAMUEL L. HARDY, M.D. Glasgow, F.K.Q.C.P.I.

WE deeply regret to announce the death of this respected and able member of the profession, which took place in Dublin on the 29th of October, after a short illness of two days. Dr. Hardy was a well known obstetric writer and practitioner, and had been elected a Fellow of the Dublin College of Physicians only a few days ago. He did not live long enough after his election to be sworn into office.

MEDICAL NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

for the week from Oct. 28th to Nov. 3rd (both inclusive).

Taken at Kew, by Dr. TREUTLER, Fellow of the Meteorological Societies of England and Scotland.

Mean height of barometer corrected and reduced to 32° F. and mean sea-level	30.157
Highest reading of do. (corrected & reduced), Oct. 28th, 10 A.M.	30.428
Lowest ditto Ditto on Nov. 3rd, 10 P.M.	29.824
Range of pressure during the week	00.604
Mean temperature of the air in the shade	50.9
Mean temperature of evaporation	47.8
Mean temperature of dew-point	44.6
Mean degree of humidity (saturation=100)	80.
Mean maximum temperature of the week	54.3
Mean minimum temperature of the week	42.9
Calculated mean temperature of the week	48.6
Maximum temperature of air in shade, on Oct. 31st	59.3
Minimum temperature (protected), on Oct. 28th	31.6
Minimum temperature (exposed on grass), on Oct. 28th	25.2
Range of temperature during week	34.1
Highest reading of black bulb, solar radiation, thermometer in vacuo, on Oct. 31st	101.7
Lowest ditto ditto on Nov. 1st	64.7
Mean amount of clouds (0-10)	6.8
Total rainfall (which fell on Oct. 28th, 29th, and Nov. 2nd)44 inch
Mean amount of ozone (0-10)	2.0

WIND.										Mean Force	
	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	W	Calm.	(0-12)
10 A.M.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	1	3.7
2 P.M.	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	0	4.3
10 P.M.	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	3.6
Mean force of wind (0-12)											3.8

The weather of the week has been average fair. Atmospheric pressure has been higher than last week and more steady. Temperature has increased again by 2° F. above that of last week; while the degree of humidity is somewhat less. Winds have ranged entirely between south-west and north-west by the west—their force being often considerable during the day, but diminishing towards night. The general health is good.

Kew, November 4th, 1868.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—At a general meeting of the Fellows, held on Thursday, October 29th, 1868, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, were duly admitted members of the College.

Dickson, John Thompson, M.B. Cantab., 33, Harley Street
Heyn, Julius C. W., M.D. Heidelberg, The Hague
Potter, John Baptiste, M.D. Edin., 2, Hertford Street, May Fair
Stocker, John Sherwood, M.D. Lond., 2, Montagu Square

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, October 29th, 1868.

Booth, Edward Johnson Hardy, Huddersfield

Fox, James Thorniley, Millman Street, Mecklenburgh Square
Higgins, Charles, Hambledon, Hants
Smith, Thomas, Crawley, Sussex
Stevens, George, Nayland, Suffolk

At the same Court, the following passed the first examination.

Anderson, R. B., St. Mary's Hospital
Burroughs, J. E. B., Guy's Hospital
Haynes, Horace E., St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Pedler, George Henry, King's College, London

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are declared:—

ALTON UNION—Medical Officer for District No. 1.
ARDEE UNION, co. Louth—Medical Officer for the Collon Dispensary District.
BALLYMENA UNION, co. Antrim—Medical Officer for the Toome Dispensary District.
BLANDFORD UNION, Dorsetshire—Medical Officer for District No. 3.
BLOOMSBURY DISPENSARY—Physician.
BRITISH LYING-IN HOSPITAL, Endell Street—Three Physicians.
CHELSEA, BROMPTON, AND BELGRAVE DISPENSARY, Sloane Square—Physician.
CLONAKILTY UNION, co. Cork—Medical Officer for the Rosscarbery Dispensary District.
CUMBERLAND INFIRMARY, Carlisle—Physician.
ELY UNION, Cambridgeshire—Public Vaccinators for Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.
ENNISCORTHY UNION, co. Wexford—Medical Officer for the Newtownbarry Dispensary District, and for the Fever Hospital.
HALIFAX INFIRMARY—Assistant House-Surgeon.
HAMBLEDON UNION, Surrey—Medical Officers for the Workhouse and District of Chiddingfold.
HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Brompton—Resident Clinical Assistant.
INFIRMARY FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, 26, Margaret Street, Cavendish Square—Visiting Physician.
MOUNTMELLICK UNION, Queen's County—Medical Officer for the Coolrain Dispensary District.
OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, St. George's Circus—Surgeon.
ROCHESTER, CHATHAM, AND STROOD DISPENSARY—Dispenser.
ROYAL GENERAL DISPENSARY, Bartholomew Close—Physician.
ROYAL INFIRMARY, GLASGOW—Two Assistant-Physicians, a Surgeon, and Two Assistant-Surgeons, to the Dispensary Department.
ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN—Fullerian Professor of Physiology.
ROYAL KENT DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon; Surgeon for the Deptford District; Resident Medical Officer.
ROYAL SOUTH LONDON DISPENSARY, St. George's Cross—District Surgeon.
ST. GEORGE DISPENSARY, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square—Surgeon.
SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL, Wolverhampton—Physician; House-Surgeon.
STOCKPORT INFIRMARY—Assistant House-Surgeon.
SUFFOLK GENERAL HOSPITAL, Bury St. Edmunds—Physician.
TOXTETH PARK TOWNSHIP—Medical Officer for District No. 1.
TRINITY COLLEGE, Dublin—Professor of Botany.
TYNEMOUTH UNION, Northumberland—Medical Officer for the Earsdon District.
WESTERN GENERAL DISPENSARY, Marylebone Rd.—Physician in Ordinary.
WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL—Resident House-Surgeon.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENT.

Names marked with an asterisk are those of Members of the Association.

ASH, Vacy, Esq., appointed Resident Medical Officer to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro.
HART, Walter, Esq., elected Resident Medical Officer to the Kilburn, Maida Vale, and St. John's Wood Dispensary.
*TAYLOR, James, Esq., appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Chester General Infirmary, vice *Thomas Brittain, Esq., resigned.
*WILLIAMS, William, M.D., elected Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Mold District, Flintshire.

BIRTHS.

HASLEHUST.—On November 3rd, at Claverley, Bridgnorth, the wife of *T. W. Haslehurst, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
STEELE.—On October 25th, at 12, Meridian Place, Clifton, the wife of *Charles Steele, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

KENDALL, T. E. O., Esq., Fitzwilliam Road, Clapham, only son of *T. M. Kendall, Esq., of King's Lynn, to Emily, eldest daughter of R. R. B. NORMAN, Esq., at Great Yarmouth, on October 22nd.

DEATHS.

*GIRLING, G. Lansdall, Esq., Surgeon, at St. Ives, Hunts, aged 73, on Oct. 26th.
MOXEY.—On October 15th, at Edinburgh House, Turnham Green, George Todd, the only child of *D. A. Moxey, M.D.
*SWAINE, W. E., M.D., F.R.C.P., aged 64, at York, on November 1st.

BEQUESTS, ETC. TO MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.—Lord Proby has given £100 to the Northampton General Infirmary. M. D. D. Dalison, Esq., has given £100 to the West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.

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.—National Orthopaedic Hospital, 2 P.M.
WEDNESDAY .. St. Mary's, 1.15 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.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.
THURSDAY St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, 2 P.M.
FRIDAY Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.
SATURDAY St. Thomas's, 9.30 A.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Lock (Clinical Demonstrations and Operations), 1 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Free, 1.30 P.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.—Medical Society of London, 8 P.M. Mr. William Adams, "On Subcutaneous Syphilitic Tumours, followed by deep Sloughing Wounds"; Dr. Henry Maudsley, "Concerning Aphasia."
TUESDAY.—Ethnological Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. Blanc, "On the Abyssinians"; Mr. R. A. Cole, "On the Discovery of Cromlechs in India"; Lieut. Steel, "On the Khasia Tribes."—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Henry Lee, "On Excision of the Larger Joints"; Professor Humphry, "On Excision of the Knee."
WEDNESDAY.—Microscopical Society, 8 P.M. Mr. John Gorham, "On Composite Structure of Simple Leaves."—Hunterian Society, Dr. Peacock, "On some Forms of Disease prevalent during the late Hot Weather."—Meteorological 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.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

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

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

AUTHORS OF PAPERS, desirous of having extra copies printed for their own use, are requested to communicate with the printer, Mr. Richards, 37, Great Queen Street.

CASES for Binding the Volumes of the JOURNAL may be had on application to Mr. Richards, 37, Great Queen Street. Price 1s. 6d. each.

THE paragraph headed "Diseases of the Eye," in the *Halstead Times*, is quite unworthy of any serious notice from any professional source.

TREATMENT OF ECZEMA.

SIR,—After using local applications, I have found nothing superior in obstinate cases to the nitrate of silver—five grains to an ounce of water—applied with a camel's-hair brush morning and evening, and wiped off immediately afterwards. I adopted this practice after reading an excellent treatise by a Scotch physician; I think, Dr. McCall Anderson's.
 Chester Square, October 1868. I am, etc., C. J. B. ALDIS, M.D.

INFANT MORTALITY.

A CORRESPONDENT asks:—What is the infant nursery mentioned by Dr. Routh wherein four out of five infants died? What is the very excellent institution now existing in London whose supporters have been discouraged by the undue mortality which took place? What is the institution which has been closed for the same reason? In what publication is to be found Mr. Curguenven's paper on the Waste of Infant Life? What is the title of M. Bouchardat's recent report to the French Government, what its date, and by whom published?

. In answer to our correspondent, we may first direct his attention to Dr. Routh's little work on *The Mortality of Infants*, wherein he will find that Dr. Routh states, as his experience of a public nursery, that "the mortality was certainly four out of five, if not more." This great mortality necessitated the closure of the nursery. Another institution, mentioned by Mr. Curguenven as receiving illegitimate children, and "farming" them out, was obliged to be closed by reason of the death of nearly all the farmed infants. The excellent institution alluded to in our former article, is the Infants' Home, 35, Great Coram Street, which is under the management of Mr. Main. At this Home, notwithstanding the greatest care and attention, out of one hundred and thirty-six children admitted during fourteen months in 1864-65, ninety-two died; and of these, sixty died of atrophy. Mr. Curguenven's paper on the "Waste of Infant Life" was published in the sessional proceedings of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, May 17th, 1867; 1, Adam Street, Adelphi. M. Bouchardat's Report can be obtained through Mr. Baillié of Regent Street.

NOTICES of Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Appointments, intended for insertion in the JOURNAL, should arrive at the Office not later than 10 A.M. on Thursday.

THE CORRESPONDENT OF THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL" IN CHRISTIANIA ON SYPHILIS.

SIR,—In the JOURNAL of October 10th, reference is made to the long and admirably conducted debate on the treatment of that most important and wide-spread disease, constitutional syphilis, which has recently been carried on in the capital of Norway. I have had from time to time the privilege of receiving communications from Professor Boeck and Dr. Owre, as to the progress of the question in Christiania, and would like to make a few observations on the position in which the question now stands. Only a week ago, I received an admirable pamphlet, entitled "*Results of the Researches made at Christiania upon the Syphilitic Poison applied to the Human Body*," by J. Heiberg, Surgeon to the Norwegian Army, 1868", in which the following remarks are made, all of which I heartily endorse, as being the results of my somewhat extended experience. The experiments made at Christiania on the treatment of syphilis by different methods, such as syphilisation (Boeck and others), by derivation (Hjort and others), and by treatment of symptoms, by caustics, etc. (Owre and others), have shown, Dr. Heiberg says—

(a) That the disease may sometimes appear with insignificant symptoms: a slight roseola, some mucous tubercles, or slight excoriations in the throat. All these symptoms may disappear at the end of a few weeks, without leaving any traces. In other words, the universal venereal disease, once produced by the syphilitic poison, may become cured, or run through its natural period, without being followed by relapses.

(b) The different eruptive forms, which belong to secondary syphilis, may become developed in the course of four to six months, and then gradually disappear. The general condition of health is bad for a long time; but, when at length the phenomena commence to disappear, it becomes better.

(c) The disease sometimes develops itself more and more, without ever diminishing gradually. In this case, it may remain a long time, and until the patient succumbs to the syphilitic dyscrasia.

No remedy has yet been found by which the organism, when once altered by the syphilitic poison, can be again restored to the normal condition, so as to prevent the possibility of the disease being reproduced in the offspring.

As to the health of the patients themselves, the different methods used have had very different results, according to Dr. Heiberg. In this respect, the testimony of Dr. Hjort, who has been physician to the syphilitic hospital for forty-five years, is especially remarkable. He says that, after the treatment with mercury, tertiary forms are pretty frequently seen at the hospital; but that these have become rare during the last twelve years, since the employment of mercury has been for the most part abandoned. He adds expressly, that phagedenic and seriginous ulcers, paralysis, epilepsy, and mental affections and the like, have very rarely manifested themselves; and even when they have, it has been recognised that these had been the consequence of the mercurial treatment of a past epoch.

Although, sir, my experience of Dr. Boeck's syphilisation is, like most of the experience of all of us in this country, very limited, I am sure that Dr. Boeck will agree with me in saying that the chief point in the treatment of that sad plague of our race, syphilis, is first of all to get rid of mercury. And I may add, sir, that it is very rare (indeed, scarcely ever as yet) that I have been so unfortunate as to see a case of syphilis in adults, where that detestable drug had not been used, whose after symptoms were not easily amenable to the effects of large (15 grains thrice daily), not small, doses of iodide of potassium.

I cannot close this letter without expressing, if you will allow me, my personal gratitude to the Christiania medical men, for their long and well conducted discussion on the treatment of syphilis. It is very rare in this country that we find men earnest enough and unprejudiced enough to discuss the subject as they have done. I am, etc., CHARLES DRYSDALE.

99, Southampton Row, October 1868.

BOTANIST.—The name of Lobel is familiar to all botanists; from it a genus of plants received the appellation of *Lobelia*. The portrait of Matthias Lobel, who died in 1615, is scarce.

SOLUTION OF THE NITRATE OF SILVER.

SIR,—In the Notices to Correspondents in your JOURNAL of the 31st of October, is the following: "Sir,—I should be glad to know what is the strongest solution of nitrate of silver that may be used with safety as an injection in cases of spermatorrhoea, Acton speaks of ten grains to a drachm of water." In answer, I would inform your correspondent that ten grains to a drachm of distilled water may be used as an injection with perfect safety. The usual solution I have used almost daily, for nearly fifty years, has been twenty grains in one drachm of distilled water for all purposes as an external application; and I have never seen a solitary instance of the cutis vera being destroyed by its application. Nitrate of silver has a peculiar conservative property rather than a caustic one, and more calculated to preserve than to destroy. The failure of the nitrate of silver in the hands of most practitioners has been in using a weak solution; the concentrated solution is very manageable, by applying it over a surface, once, twice, or thrice, as the case requires. Nottingham, Oct., 1868. I am, etc., JOHN HIGGINBOTTOM.

THE LATE MR. JUMP.

Subscriptions are earnestly requested on behalf of the widow and family of the late Mr. Jump, M.R.C.S., of Litcham, Norfolk. During the recent epidemic of typhoid fever, Mr. Jump and three daughters were simultaneously attacked, and he unfortunately fell a victim to the disease, leaving a widow and eight children (five of whom are too young to do anything towards their own maintenance) with barely £20 per annum. Mr. Jump was for thirty-two years a most respectable and hard-worked parish surgeon, and had no means of providing for the future. It is hoped, therefore, that the present appeal will be responded to with that kindness which characterises the members of the medical profession. Subscriptions will be thankfully received by the Rev. G. W. Winter, Rector of Litcham, or Thomas Palmer, Esq., solicitor, Swaffham. The youngest child, aged ten years, is a candidate for a foundation-scholarship in the Medical Benevolent College. The following subscriptions have already been promised:—The Rev. G. W. Winter, Litcham, £5; M. Johnstone, Esq., Reaton, Cromer, £5; Litcham Lodge of Odd Fellows, £10; Rev. K. Digby, Tittleshall, £2; Rev. C. B. Barnwell, Mileham, £2; Rev. A. Langton, Framsham, £1; Miss E. E. Winter, Hastings, £5; Miss Eliza Winter, Kingston, £2; Sudlow Roots, Esq., Kingston, £2; D. Lynes, Esq., Litcham, £5; Miss Lynes, ditto, £1; Dr. Lowe, Lynn, £3; 3; Rev. R. Blakelock, Norwich, £1; F. Manby, Esq., Rudham, £2; T. M. Kendall, Esq., Lynn, £1: 1.

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.

E. R.—The celebrated Sydenham was buried in St. James's, Piccadilly, as also Drs. Arbuthnot and Akenside. Oliver Goldsmith is buried in the ground east of the choir, in the little vestry beneath the organ gallery in the Temple Church.

ST. GEORGE'S.—The celebrated Cheselden was connected with St. George's Hospital as well as with the Westminster and St. Thomas's.

THE USE OF ALCOHOL IN DISEASES.

SIR,—The enclosed paper was sent to me by a lady, whom I had been attending in consultation with Mr. Anderson. Her letter, accompanying it, will best explain why it was addressed to me, and my motive for forwarding it to you for your consideration, prior to its publication in the JOURNAL. I am, etc.,
Spalding, September 1868.

EDWIN MORRIS, M.D.

September 21st, 1868.

"Dear Dr. Morris,—I did not know at the time that your last visit was really the last, or I might have been tempted to mention the enclosed paper to you then, although not quite finished. I wrote down what had been working on my mind as soon as I was well able to do so, with the intention of putting it into the hands of yourself and Mr. Anderson when both together, requesting that, if you thought proper to sanction it, you would get it inserted in some medical publication. I felt, when writing it, that if I should not have strength to rally, it would be a satisfaction to yourselves; now that the treatment has answered, I feel that it may give weight to the intention of the paper. I believe I have said to you at different times almost all that it contains. I am afraid you will think me a very self-willed and troublesome patient altogether; but I trust you will forgive this additional inflection, as I could not send such a statement to any journal on my own responsibility, without giving you an opportunity of seeing that it was correct. Of course, I take it for granted that the name of the patient is not mentioned. The date is that of the original. . . . I remain, yours faithfully,

"*A Plea for Weak Nerves.*—I am lying in a very precarious state under an attack of low fever. The experience of the last few days has impressed me with a belief that, in certain nervous temperaments such as my own, there must often be a large amount of suffering and distress brought both upon the patients themselves and their families, by the systematic use of port wine; and I most earnestly beg the profession, to whom this paper is addressed, to bear with me while I state a few simple facts, and to give those facts their deliberate attention.

"During the first ten days of my illness, my nerves were kept in a state of thorough repose. The nights might be interrupted occasionally; but I always could sleep, and with that peculiar consciousness of rest which is so mercifully given for comfort and support in times of great debility. Port wine was urged upon me; but my extreme and, as it now appears, instinctive repugnance was yielded to; until, upon further medical aid being called in, it was decided that I must try it; and in the course of the day, and in four separate portions, I took two glasses (or rather one glass and a half of port, and half a glass of sherry with my dinner). No more rest. I felt the growing wakefulness as night came on, and there lay, hour after hour, the brain arguing against the practical fallacy of exciting the nerves in order to increase vital strength; while every nerve seemed bearing testimony against the assumed fallacy, by doing its best (in that strange flickering sensation, which is most like the dazzle of sunbeams, felt instead of seen) to use up and exhaust the very energies of life. In the early morning, I was able to sleep a little.

"It had been remarked by the physician, upon first seeing me, that it was a wonder, with such a tongue, that the brain had not become affected. I felt that night how very improbable it was that it would have borne any unusual amount of fever unharmed, had the port wine been taken two or three days earlier.

"The next day, one glass, diluted with water, was tried; but, although I did sleep that night, I was so convinced that the port wine was doing more harm than good, and I suppose the fact was apparent, that my professional friends kindly explained to me the end they had in view, leaving the means, in regard to diet, chiefly to my own discretion. The result has been, I believe, so far satisfactory. I have by no means regained the state of perfect quiet I enjoyed before the experiment of the port wine; that may be owing to the progress of the disease; but there is no actual excitement. My constitution possesses so little rallying power, that the event must still be very doubtful; but I feel that the present system is giving it its best chance.

"Delirium and sleeplessness may come as a part of the disease, and we know that, like every other trial, they will be sent for good; but it is a serious responsibility for those who have it so much in their power to inflict as well as to alleviate, if, for want of inquiring into the effect of port wine upon the nerves of their patients, only one should pass through the stages of low fever deprived of self-control, a source of harass and anxiety to all about, who might, under different treatment, have been enabled calmly to await the impending decree, either to draw nearer, or to turn back again for yet a little longer, as Infinite Love and Wisdom should see most fitting."

ENTOMOLOGIST.—The humming-bird moths (*Macroglossa-stellatarum*) have been very common this year. We saw and caught several at Littlehampton, Sussex.

DR. O'FLAHERTY.—Consult the *Life of Sir Astley Cooper*, by his nephew Bransby Cooper. The physicians who attended Queen Caroline (1737) received 500 guineas and the surgeons 300 guineas each.

J. M. (St. Bartholomew's).—The "primary" examinations for the present session take place this day (Saturday) at the College of Surgeons. At the "pass" examination, all candidates will have to undergo one in medicine, unless they already possess a medical license, or the diploma will be retained until they have complied with this regulation.

MR. GREENE (Moir).—On reflection, we believe our correspondent will see that, in treating the question to which he refers from a purely medical and professional point of view, and eschewing all other considerations, we are adopting the only proper and justifiable course. Individuals will, of course, be guided by other and collateral considerations such as those which he urges; but, as medical journalists, they are entirely foreign to our line of thought or reasoning, and must be rigidly excluded from consideration.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest:—The Wiltshire County Mirror, Nov. 4th; The Brighton Times, Oct. 24th; The Plymouth Western Morning News, Oct. 29th; The Lincolnshire Chronicle, Oct. 23rd; The Japan Times' Overland Mail, Sept. 5th; The New York Medical Record, Oct. 15th; The Liverpool Liberal Review, Oct. 31st.

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

Dr. H. MacCormac, Belfast; Dr. Bullar, Southampton; Mr. C. F. Maunders, London; Dr. Edwards, Llandudno; Dr. Farquharson, Rugby; Dr. Prior, Bedford; Mr. W. Anderson, London; Mr. J. Good, Wilton; Mr. Spencer, London; Messrs. Corry and Co., Belfast; Dr. Bridges, Bradford; Mr. Fleischmann, Cheltenham; The Vice-Registrar of the Manchester School of Medicine; Mrs. Browne, Brighton; Mr. T. Churton, Erith; Dr. W. T. Greene, London; Messrs. Black, Edinburgh; Mr. R. M. Jones, Groes; Dr. R. Elliot, Carlisle; Mr. Higginbottom, Nottingham; Mr. Orton, Malta; Mr. W. Allard, Tewkesbury; F.R.C.P., Poole; Dr. C. Taylor, Nottingham; Mr. H. Hardy, Dublin; Mr. T. R. Jessop, Leeds; Dr. Ballard, London; Dr. J. Marion Sims, New York; Mr. T. Watkin Williams, Birmingham; Dr. Duchenne (de Boulogne), Paris; Mr. R. L. Bowles, Folkestone; Mr. Augustin Prichard, Clifton; and Dr. Ogston, Aberdeen.

LETTERS, ETC. (with enclosures) from:—

Mr. A. P. Thorp, St. Ives; The Honorary Secretary of the Harveian Society of London; Mr. Crosby Leonard, Clifton; Mr. E. Garraway, Faversham; Mr. Wm. Copney, London; Mr. Alfred Hill, Birmingham; Mr. Joseph Lister, Glasgow; Mr. H. Greenway, Plymouth; The Honorary Secretaries of the Ethnological Society of London; Dr. M. H. Collis, Dublin; Dr. MacDowell, Dublin; Mr. R. J. Rogers, Brighton; Dr. Ellis, Crowle; Dr. Haughton, Great Malvern; Dr. Lanchester, Croydon; Dr. Basham, London; Dr. Goole, Derby; Mr. F. F. Smallpeice, Guildford; Dr. George Johnson, London; Dr. Lyons, Dublin; M.R.C.S.; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; The Registrar-General of England; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Dr. John Murray, London; Dr. Treutler, Kew; Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, London; The Honorary Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; Mr. J. Taylor, Chester; Mr. G. M. Gifford, Launceston; Mr. B. Dodsworth, York; Dr. Brown, Aberdeen; Dr. Barton, Dublin; Mr. A. Wall, London; Mr. T. P. Teale, Leeds; Dr. Thomas Laycock, Edinburgh; Dr. Mapother, Dublin; Dr. Belcher, Dublin; Mr. Hickman, London; Mr. Berkeley Hill, London; Dr. Bastian, London; The Registrar of the Medical Society of London; Dr. Murchison, London; Dr. Reith, Aberdeen; Dr. E. Waters, Chester; Sir W. Wilde, Dublin; and Dr. Hayden, Dublin.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

On the Wasting Diseases of Infants and Children. By Eustace Smith, M.D. London: 1868.

A Practical Treatise on Bright's Diseases of the Kidneys. By T. Grainger Stewart, M.D., F.R.S.E. Edinburgh and London: 1868.

Vesico-Vaginal Fistula from Parturition and other Causes; with Cases of Recto-Vaginal Fistula. By T. Addis Emmet, M.D. New York and London: 1868.

The Twentieth and Twenty-first Reports of St. Mark's Ophthalmic Hospital and Dispensary for Diseases of the Eye and Ear, 1866-1868. Dublin: 1868.

Observations on the Temperature of the Body in the Insane. By T. S. Clouston, M.D. London: 1868.

Experiments to Determine the Precise Effects of Bromide of Potassium in Epilepsy. By T. S. Clouston, M.D. London: 1868.

The Mechanical Treatment of Deformities of the Mouth. By Robert Ramsay and James Oakley Coles. London: 1868.

Report on the Sanitary Condition of Mile End Old Town for the Year ending March 30th, 1868. By Matthew Corner, M.D. London: 1868.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital Reports. Edited by Dr. Andrew and Mr. Callender. Vol. iv. London: 1868.

Third Annual Report of the Sanitary Condition of Merthyr Tydfil for the Year 1867. By Thomas Jones Dyke. Merthyr Tydfil: 1868.

Medicine, an Art-Science and its Study: being an Introductory Address delivered at University College, London, at the opening of the Session 1868-69. By John Eric Erichsen. London: 1868.

On the Action of Cobra Poison. By C. R. Francis, M.B. London. Calcutta: 1868.

On the Parasitic Affections of the Skin. By Dr. McCall Anderson. Second edition. London: 1868.

Statistical Tables of the Patients under Treatment in the Wards of St. Bartholomew's Hospital during 1867. By Reginald Southey, M.D. Oxon., and Alfred Willelt, F.R.C.S. London: 1868.

On Aphasia, or Loss of Speech in Cerebral Disease. By Frederic Bateman, M.D., M.R.C.P. Lewes: 1868.

The Anatomical Memoirs of John Goodsir, F.R.S., late Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh. Edited by William Turner, M.B. With a Biographical Memoir by Henry Lonsdale, M.D. Vols. I and II. Edinburgh: 1868.

The Hastings and St. Leonards Pamphlet. By J. C. Savery, Esq. St. Leonards-on-Sea: 1868.

On the Power of the Soul over the Body. By George Moore, M.D. Sixth Edition, Revised and Enlarged. London: 1868.

Memorandum on the Removal of Troops in Attacks of Epidemic Cholera. By John Murray, M.D., Inspector-General of Hospitals, Upper Provinces, India.

Revista Médico-Quirúrgica y Dentística. Nueva-York: 1868.

The Introductory Address delivered at the Westminster Hospital, October 1st, 1868. By Francis Mason. London: 1868.

Cases of Disease of the Nervous System in Patients the subject of Inherited Syphilis. By J. Hughlings Jackson, M.D. London: 1868.

Croonian Lectures on Matter and Force; given at the Royal College of Physicians in 1868. By Henry Bence Jones, A.M., M.D., F.R.S. London: 1868.

Statistical Report of the Health of the Navy for the year 1866. London: 1868.