

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE.

ON THE MEANS OF MANIFESTING PUBLIC OPINION IN THE ELECTION-OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PARLIAMENT. BY THOMAS HARE, ESQ.

MR. HARE considered the pause after an election a fitting time for considering the lessons to be learnt from it. Dissatisfaction was general at the exclusion, by individual localities, of men for whom the nation demanded seats in Parliament. This led at once to the reflection how this could be prevented; and the question naturally arose, whether it was necessary to confine within the limits of a certain district the power of electing or rejecting men of acknowledged eminence and national importance. The present system was liable also to other abuses. A knowledge of the temper of a certain locality taught wire-workers what cry must be raised to insure success, and what passions must be stirred up to overthrow a rival candidate. These abuses would be swept away by enlarging the area of the constituency. He had repeatedly advocated the abolition of all limits, so that every view and interest might be sure of being represented by the combination of individual votes collected from every part of the kingdom. At present their individual opinions and preferences were swallowed up by a merciless majority. One object of the present paper was to put forward a tentative plan suggested to him by Mr. Hastings, the General Secretary of the Association. Since it was generally agreed that before long the seats would be taken away from the smaller boroughs, it was proposed that fifty seats so obtained should be thrown open to the whole country, each voter to have a national in addition to his local vote. Their votes should then be placed on a general list, and then, after ascertaining the quotient of the general votes divided by fifty, each one of the fifty candidates who obtained such quotient, or who approached nearest, should be returned. The names of the small boroughs might be retained, and the representatives might be named the members of the Wells College, of the Thetford College, and so on. This plan opened a favourable opportunity for testing the system, leaving it easy to advance or recede according to the result. If the system prospered, what was corrupt and base would be possible to be isolated, and separated from honesty and justice instead of tainting the whole system. This expansion of choice from its present narrow limits would be highly satisfactory to the individual voter, and the progress of political education would be incalculable.

MR. HASTINGS thought the late disastrous campaign had prepared men's minds for acknowledging the necessity of some new system. The scheme presented by Mr. Hare was capable of being adopted tentatively; and the disfranchisement of small boroughs which, it was generally agreed, must soon take place, would offer a favourable opportunity for trying this plan, without disturbing the general system. Under Mr. Hare's plan such men as Mr. Gladstone, Mr. J. S. Mill, and Mr. Austin Bruce, whom the nation demanded to see in Parliament, would not be thrown upon the mercies of certain localities which might happen not to appreciate their ideas which found favour with the majority of the nation. Intellect and labour would also find place in Parliament instead of simply wealth and capital as at present. He further recommended that the national vote should be taken after the close of the local polls, so that the nation might secure the return of any eminent man who had been rejected.

MR. TORRENS, M.P. and Mr. HURST opposed the scheme.

DR. STALLARD was greatly in favour of Mr. Hare's scheme, believing himself at present to be the worst represented man in the kingdom. Every time that he had exercised the franchise he had found himself either in an immense majority or an immense minority, so that his individual vote was of no account. Under Mr. Hare's system he would be able to vote in such a manner that his vote would benefit what he had most at heart, the advancement of his profession. There were one or two medical men in Parliament; but, taken as a body, they were nothing like adequately represented. He believed the country also would be benefited by the admission of more medical men in Parliament, since so many bills came before them in which sanitary knowledge would be of the highest use. He differed from Mr. Hare and Mr. Hastings, in that he would limit the area of their general votes to counties, and not extend them to the whole country, as he considered local influence ought to be preserved. Dr. Stallard also advocated the adoption of some plan, by which large constituencies might be more commensurately represented, and the periodic adjusting of the representation to the increase or decrease of population.

MR. HOLLAND admired the plan because it would render it impossible for local ill-will to oust an eminent man from Parliament. A certain quota of favourable votes would entitle to a seat, no matter how many were adverse. It would largely benefit the medical profession to which he belonged; and the country would, he believed, also be benefited by

the introduction of sanitary improvements. He had never yet had a chance of voting for a man he cared at all about. But by this plan he might vote for any man he admired, irrespective of locality.

MR. HARE's paper was ordered to be printed and circulated, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH.

THE first Meeting of this Branch will be held on Thursday, Jan. 7th, 1869, at the Bell Hotel, Gloucester, at 3.30 P.M., when Dr. EVANS will deliver an Inaugural Address.

The business of the Meeting will be to consider and determine the Rules of the Branch and the Election of the Officers and Council of the Branch for the calendar year 1869; to elect Members of the Branch as Members of Council of the Parent Association; to propose new Members of the Association and Branch; to transact other necessary business; and to discuss such subjects connected with the interests of the Branch and of the profession as may be brought before the meeting.

Members having communications for the meeting, are requested to give immediate notice to the Honorary Secretary.

The Dinner will be held at the Bell Hotel at 5.30 punctually. Dinner tickets, 7s. 6d. each. It is particularly requested that the prepaid notification sent to each member of the Branch be returned, without delay, to the Secretary, in order that the necessary arrangements for the comfort and convenience of the members may be ensured.

ALFRED FLEISCHMANN, *Honorary Secretary*, Cheltenham.

READING BRANCH: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

A SPECIAL General Meeting of the Reading Branch was held at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, on Wednesday, Dec. 9th, at 7 P.M.; G. H. DAVIS, Esq., President-elect, in the chair.

Representation of the Profession in the Medical Council.—It was proposed by Mr. MAY, seconded by Dr. WOODHOUSE, and carried unanimously—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is expedient that the medical profession be directly represented in the General Medical Council."

It was proposed by Mr. HARRINSON, seconded by Mr. WALFORD, and carried unanimously—"That this meeting cordially approves of the course taken by the Committee of Council; and will be prepared to aid in the steps they may think it needful to adopt to carry the same into effect."

SHROPSHIRE SCIENTIFIC BRANCH.

THE Annual Meeting of the above Branch was held in the Museum of the Natural History Society, Shrewsbury, on 28th October last, at which there was a large gathering of the members. The proceedings were opened by the President, SAMUEL WOOD, Esq., F.S.A. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, the Council of the Branch were elected. The representatives to the General Council were next elected. Dr. Oakley was unanimously elected Vice-President for the ensuing year. Eleven new members were balloted for and elected.

THE PRESIDENT then read an able and interesting address, at the conclusion of which a vote of thanks was moved, and a request that he would have it published in a separate form. The President replied that he was in the hands of the meeting, but he thought it must first be sent to the JOURNAL, after which he should not object to comply with the flattering compliment which their request conveyed.

A valuable paper "On the Occurrence of Amaurosis long after the injury, in cases of concussion of the spinal marrow by railway and other accidents, illustrated by cases," was then read by T. WHARTON JONES, F.R.S., Professor of Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery in University College, London, Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Hospital, &c.

A very interesting paper was next read by T. P. BLUNT, F.C.S., on "The importance of the indications afforded by the presence of Ammonia and Nitric Acid in Drinking Water," which he illustrated with some beautiful experiments and tests.

H. J. BUCK, Esq., of Cressage, read a paper on a case of Hermaproditism in a patient of his who lived to over sixty years of age. Mr. Buck produced a cast taken from the parts after death.

J. D. HARRIES, Esq., next read a paper on a remarkable case of Hernia Cerebri which occurred in his practice. The preparation was exhibited.

DR. W. NEWMAN, of Stamford, contributed a paper, and also

ALFRED HAVILAND, Esq., of London, sent a valuable paper and illustrated maps, exhibiting the Geographical Distribution of Heart-Disease and Dropsy throughout England and Wales. In this paper Shropshire was marked out as being very free from these complaints; but Shrewsbury stood out badly, having above the average number, arising, as Mr. Haviland surmised, from its defective sanitary arrangements, and river fog in the lower parts of the town, which completely overcame its otherwise healthy character.

Letters regretting unavoidable absence were read from numerous eminent associates, among whom were Sir William Fergusson, Dr. Farr, Erasmus Wilson, Esq., etc.

The dinner took place at the Lion Hotel, and was all that could be desired in *cuisine*, cellar, and waiting. About fifty members and friends sat down, and the result was a meeting that will not soon be forgotten.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

A SPECIAL general meeting of this Branch was held at 37, Soho Square, on Tuesday, December 8th—W. O. MARKHAM, M.D., Vice-President, in the Chair—to consider the recently issued address of the Committee of Council on the Direct Representation of the Profession in the Medical Council.

Dr. SIBSON proposed the first resolution. He said that there was no doubt that the Medical Council had not produced that effect on professional education which ten years ought to have effected. This was the great point to be considered; and much good would be done, if the ultimate good of the profession could be worked. It was evident that the elements constituting the Council counterbalanced each other, although their object was to do all the good that they could. It had been already said, but it was a truth that could not be too often repeated, that the Council was composed mainly of the representatives of those very bodies which themselves required to be organised and controlled by the Council. Hence there must be some failure in the action of this body. At the same time, it would be unjust to say that the members of the Council went thither simply to represent the Universities and Corporations. No doubt they did represent the bodies which sent them, but they also worked for the improvement of medical education and the elevation of the profession. The members of the Council were not only among the most eminent in the profession, but were most thoroughly fitted for their task; and yet the advance in medical education was very much smaller than might have been expected. The Government nominees, no doubt, were a very valuable component part; but they had not sufficient pressure from without, and they were not sufficient in number to counterpoise the representatives of the Universities and Colleges. In what respect had the Council failed? First, the standard of preliminary education was far from being sufficiently high. The matriculation examination of the University of London was good, and not over severe. Many passed it who had no intention of entering a profession. And yet, it was too true, the examinations conducted by the College of Preceptors for the Royal College of Surgeons fell short of that test. Should it be said that the profession was content to take an inferior examination? That was a question which ought to be well considered. Another defect was one which, perhaps, could not be remedied without legislation. In every part of the United Kingdom, students must apply to more than one body before obtaining the minimum double qualification. This pressed hardly on the student, to go through the examinations one after another. A third evil was the want, in several examining boards, of practical tests. It ought to be a principle, that an examination must be practical. In some of the bodies, it was now not practical in medicine and in surgery; the candidates were not taken to the bedside, but only required to answer verbal or written questions. At the beginning of the session, when examinations were not being prepared for, the hospital wards were better attended than at the end. If the medical knowledge of candidates were tested at the bedside, they would frequent the wards day by day. If general representation of the profession could be obtained, there would be, with the Crown nominees, a body of members equal to the representatives of the corporate bodies, and the boards would become the true examining boards of the profession. The question was one that must be taken up by the profession at large. He had seen articles in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* and in the *Lancet*, and had been struck with the remark, that the profession did not take deep interest in the matter, and that it did not take much interest in the proceedings of the Council. This would be remedied, if there were direct representation. There would then be unity and force of action, and we should not see ten years pass without some valuable results. He moved—

“That the Secretaries be instructed to inform the Chairman of the Committee for promoting the Direct Representation of the Profession in the General Medical Council, that this Branch is prepared to take part with the Committee of Council, with the Committee on Direct Representation, and with the Councils of the various Branches of the Association, in a deputation to the Government, as early in the spring of next year as may be convenient.”

Dr. LANKESTER seconded the motion. Many years ago, the general representation of the profession was contended for. There was no fault to be found with the representatives of the Corporations or the Government nominees; but, if any body had a right to be represented, the registered practitioners had it. There would never be a sound system of medical education, so long as the Council was composed of members interested in the examining bodies. He felt that medical education was not what it ought to be. He had hoped that the Medical Council would raise education; it might have done so; but he could not see that it had. By the free expression of the opinion of the medical profession in the Council, the standard might be raised. He thought the present movement right, and wished it success.

Dr. CAMPS objected to a high education for the general practitioner, on the ground that it would render him disinclined for the rough work of practice. He thought that the members of the Council should be entirely elected by the profession.

Dr. BEALE said that it should be remembered that the object was to legislate for the future members of the profession. Men were entering every department with a higher state of education than formerly; and it was a well-known fact, that highly educated medical men would undertake the rough work of general practice—some even, in that position, rendering themselves distinguished in science, and making for themselves European reputations. All teachers of medicine were aware of the defective amount of preliminary education which students often possessed. There was no fear of too high a standard of education. If it were required that all the students should pass an university examination, he would undertake that the teachers would train up at least four-fifths so as to pass. It was a matter of teaching; and it was a great fault, that men who belonged, in fact, to a past age, should be allowed to regulate medical teaching. There was no reason why a well educated man should object to attending the poor in Whitechapel or elsewhere.

Dr. STEWART had always held that a medical man should be so educated as to be qualified for any position. He used to urge his pupils at the Middlesex Hospital to attend the lectures of Mr. Waterhouse on natural history. Very few availed themselves of the opportunity; but all of them got appointments in the East India Company's Service, and did well. He agreed with Dr. Sibson, that the Medical Council had not done all that it should towards forwarding education.

Dr. SIBSON, in reply, said that it was not possible to instruct medical students, unless they had a good preliminary education. The very character of the work demanded this. In reply to Dr. Camps, he said that no one was fitted for country practice unless he were a well educated medical man. A more ruinous scheme than that of forming the Council entirely of members elected by the profession could not be devised. There would then be no security that it would contain the highest men in the profession; and the advantage of the presence of the members connected with the Universities and Colleges would be in danger of being lost. The present proposal was not meant as an introduction of the thin end of the wedge, but as a genuine and final thing.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

Dr. BEALE then proposed—

“That the Secretaries of this Branch be instructed, and that the members in their individual capacity be recommended, to apply to all the members for the metropolis and for the other districts included in the Branch, requesting their support in Parliament for the recognition of the just claims of the general body of the profession.”

Dr. CAMPS seconded the motion.

Dr. WALLER LEWIS advised that a plain statement of the case should be drawn up and placed in the hands of members of Parliament.

Dr. SIEVEKING urged that the method of carrying out the representation of the profession should be thoroughly discussed before going to Parliament on the subject. It was desirable to have a general representation of the profession; but the object was not to introduce into the Council any one, but those educated and *élite* men who would improve education.

Dr. SIBSON explained that a plan had been agreed upon by the Committee, by which the election would be conducted by means of voting-papers.

The resolution was carried; and, after a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting was dissolved.

other hand, it is a mere evasion of the inevitable issue, to allege that the Universities, Medical Corporations, and Licensing Bodies, are already justly represented, exclusive of the medical practitioners. How is it possible that the interests of those bodies can be honestly regarded when they fail to recognise the claims of their own accredited members?

The present relation of the Medical Corporations to the Profession, and towards the Medical Council, is this: they have taken, and continue to take, the monies of some thousands of men, to whom, in return, they have deliberately granted, and continue to grant, diplomas of full licence to practise medicine or surgery; but, from the days of such membership, forwards, these bodies entirely ignore the professional existence of their members.

The continuance of this system in future would be bad enough, but not so bad as that the members of the said Colleges should now be inadvertently led to ignore their *own* professional existence, and commit professional suicide. I am, etc., FREDERICK J. GANT, F.R.C.S.

Connaught Square, December, 1868.

HOMŒOPATHY IN THE ABERDEEN INFIRMARY.

SIR,—I observe in your leading article of this day's JOURNAL that you misunderstand the meaning of some statements made by me in my letter of the 8th December.

Dr. Smith, in his reply to my first letter, which appeared in the JOURNAL of the 28th ult., virtually abandoned his original protest, and concentrated his objections to my views on the "sixth dilutions" which he saw me using. In order to show how little ground there was in this for interference, I stated the circumstances in which these dilutions were used, and the result. You have, however, supposed that by finding no effect produced in the two or three instances I referred to, I have abandoned all the stronger eclectic and homœopathic drugs, and the position generally for which I was contending. This is a mistake, as you will see by the accompanying letter to the Managers of the Aberdeen Infirmary, and by my reply to Dr. Harvey's pamphlet, and by my published papers.

Whatever the Managers may do on Monday, I certainly cannot withdraw from the position I now occupy. Your insertion of this will oblige Yours faithfully, ARCH. REITH.

Aberdeen, December 1868.

P.S. My colleagues have not yet stated their objections to my published views. A. R.

NEW INVENTIONS, &c.,

IN

MEDICINE, SURGERY, DIETETICS, AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES.

THE LITHIA-WATER OF COMMERCE.

THE variation in the quality of the lithia-water sold for the use of invalids, has been recently referred to by this JOURNAL. We wish to mention the lithia-water of Messrs. Roughsedge and Summers, whose samples have been examined, and found to contain the full complement of lithia. We found 4.7 grains of carbonate of lithia in a bottle of the water—a result in the highest degree satisfactory. Much of the lithia-water in the market, however, does not come up to the mark. Carbonate of lithia is very rare and costly, and makers of artificial mineral water are not always able to get it pure. We have recently analysed a sample of what was sold to a maker of mineral water as pure carbonate of lithia. It did not contain so much as forty per cent. of real carbonate of lithia, and the lithia-water (the maker of which we know to have been desirous of furnishing a proper article) suffered accordingly.

PREPARATION OF MEDICINAL EXTRACTS IN VACUO.

WE have recently caused a visit of inspection to be paid to the works of Messrs. J. Sellers and Co., whose admirable apparatus for making medicinal extracts *in vacuo* deserves to be recommended to the notice of the medical profession. A large vacuum apparatus which was inspected, is capable of evaporating twenty gallons of water in an hour at 120° Fahrenheit. This will serve to give some idea of the scale of operation. The various extracts prepared by these makers are of the highest quality; and the difference between nice and nasty, is the difference between a vacuum extract and a non-vacuum extract.

THE POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

POOR-LAW BOARD.

IT is announced that the Earl of Devon, the late President of the Poor-law Board, before quitting office appointed Mr. Henry Longley, barrister-at-law, to be a Poor-law Inspector, in the room of Mr. Edward Gulson, who had held the office since 1834, and who resigned in consequence of failing health. Mr. Francis Davy Longe has been appointed private secretary to Mr. Goschen, President of the Poor-law Board.

DR. O'SULLIVAN *vs.* THE POOR-LAW GUARDIANS OF LIMERICK.

THIS was an action to recover damages for wrongful dismissal from the office of Medical Officer of Limerick Workhouse. It came on for trial last week, before Chief Justice Whiteside and a special jury, and (soon after the opening) resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff, by arrangement, with £100 damages.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

NATURAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS.—Trinity College offers a Foundation Scholarship (value £80 to £100 a year), for Natural Science. The Examination will be held in Easter week, and will be open to all Undergraduate Members of Colleges or Halls in Cambridge or Oxford. To qualify himself, therefore, a gentleman need only place his name on the boards of a College or Hall. Further information may be obtained from the Rev. E. Blore, Trinity College, Cambridge.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

RADCLIFFE TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP.—The examiners for this Fellowship (Professors Acland, Rolleston, and Brodie), have given notice that the next Examination for a Fellowship will commence on Monday, February 1st, at 10 A.M. Candidates are requested to send in their names on or before Wednesday, January 20th, by letter, addressed to the Regius Professor of Medicine, Museum, Oxford.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE EXAMINATION.—The Examiners in the School of Physical Science (A. G. V. Harcourt, M.A., R. B. Clifton, M.A., G. W. Child, M.D.) have issued the following class list:—Class I.—John Conroy, Christ Church.—Class II.—G. A. B. Beecroft, Christ Church; R. G. Bowyer, Queen's; G. F. Donkin, Magdalene; E. Jermyn, Christ Church; H. S. Stephenson, Queen's; T. Threlfall, Brazenose. Class III.—J. V. Glanville, Exeter. Class IV.—Nil.

Mr. E. RICKARDS, B.A., St. John's, last week passed the First or Scientific Examination for the Degree of M.B.

MEDICAL NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

for the week from Dec. 9th to Dec. 15th (both inclusive).

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

Mean height of barometer corrected and reduced to 32° F. and mean sea-level	29.733
Highest reading of do. (corrected and reduced), on 9th, 10 A.M.	30.313
Lowest ditto	29.264
Lowest ditto	29.264
Range of pressure during the week	1.049
Mean temperature of the air in the shade	48.0
Mean temperature of evaporation	45.6
Mean temperature of dew-point	42.9
Mean degree of humidity (saturation=100)	83.0
Mean maximum temperature of the week	52.2
Mean minimum temperature of the week	41.5
Calculated mean temperature of the week	46.9
Maximum temperature of air in shade, on 11th	56.1
Minimum temperature (protected), on 12th	31.5
Minimum temperature (exposed on grass), on 4th	24.2

Range of temperature during week.....	31.9
Highest reading of black bulb, solar radiation, thermometer in vacuo, on 15th	63.0
Lowest ditto ditto on 3rd.....	55.3
Mean amount of clouds (0—10)	7.7
Total rainfall (which fell on 11th, 13th, 14th, and 15th)	0.47 inch
Mean amount of ozone (0—10)	5.1

WIND.										Mean Force
N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	W	NW	Calm. (0—12)
10 A.M.	I	O	I	O	4	O	O	O	I	3.3
2 P.M.	O	I	I	I	O	4	O	O	O	3.3
10 P.M.	O	I	O	O	3	O	3	O	O	3.6
Mean force of wind (0—12)										3.4

The weather of the week has been variable and on the whole fair. Atmospheric pressure increased very rapidly on the 9th, attaining its maximum on the evening of that day; after which it again fell as rapidly; since then it has been unsteady and fluctuating. Temperature has been slightly lower than during the previous week, and the humidity less. Winds have been moderate and chiefly south-westerly. The sky has been for the most part cloudy. The general health continues satisfactory.

Kew, December 16th, 1868.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—At a general meeting of the Fellows, held on Monday, December 14th, 1868, the following gentleman, formerly an extra-Licentiate, was duly admitted a member of the College.

Hoggan, William, H.M.S. *St. Vincent*, Portsmouth

At this meeting, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, and satisfied the College of their proficiency in the science and practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery, were duly admitted to practise physic as Licentiates of the College:—

Barkas, William James, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Brewer, Henry Melville, Newport, Monmouthshire
Butlin, Henry Trentham, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Clayton, Richard, Oswaldtwistle
Dickinson, William Lindon, Workington, Cumberland
Eck, Vincent Freerick, 58, Cleveland Square
Giles, William Betts, Guy's Hospital
Greene, Walter, 19, Merrick Square, Trinity Square
Hicks, Edward Buller, Easingwold, York
Humby, Edwin, M.D. St. Andrew's, 83, Hamilton Terrace
Lewis, William Bevan, 37, St. Andrew's Hill, Doctors' Commons
Lucas, Richard Clement, Compton, Hants
Pierce, Frederick Morrish, Royal Infirmary, Manchester
Richardson, William Edmund, Rochdale
Rouch, James Ryall, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Rowland, Hugh Mortimer, M.D. Aberdeen, Wolverhampton
Sedgwick, Henry, 79, New North Road
Thompson, John Ashburton, Guy's Hospital

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, December 10th, 1868.

Andrew, James Lawton, Baguley Hill, near Manchester
Butler, Charles, Sutton Bengier, Wiltshire
Clark, Andrew, Greenford, Middlesex
Elphick, Edward, Burra Burra, South Australia
Harvey, James D'Arcy, St. Just, Cornwall
Hogg, Richard Bowen, Rotherhithe
Marshall, Henry Flamank, Birmingham
Molecey, Octavius Twigge, Stamford, Lincolnshire
North, John, Winchester
Perkins, Alfred Roberts Steele, St. Sidwell's, Exeter
White, Frederick, Liverpool

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

Davenhill, Robert Septimus, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Gray, George James, University College
Latham, William Henry, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Nettle, William, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Smith, James Adolphus, St. Mary's Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are declared:—

AUCKLAND UNION, Durham—Medical Officer for the Whitworth (a new District).
AYRSHIRE DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM—Medical Superintendent.
BATTLE UNION—Medical Officer for District No. 1 and the Workhouse; Medical Officer for District No. 2.
BIRKENHEAD BOROUGH HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon.
BIRMINGHAM—Public Vaccinator for the Parish of.
CITY DISPENSARY, Watling Street—Physician.
CITY OF LONDON—Examiner of Gas.
CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Victoria Park—Physician.
COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE HOSPITAL—Physician.

CUNNINGHAM COMBINATION POOR-HOUSE, Irvine, Ayrshire—Surgeon.
DONCASTER GENERAL INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY—Dispenser.
FARRINGTON GENERAL DISPENSARY AND LYING-IN CHARITY, Bartlett's Buildings, Holborn—Surgeon.
FOREHOE INCORPORATION, Norfolk—Medical Officer for District No. 4 and the Workhouse.
GLASGOW EYE INFIRMARY—Surgeon.
GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY—Physician to the Dispensary Department.
GLOUCESTER GENERAL INFIRMARY—Assistant-Surgeon.
HORNCASTLE UNION, Lincolnshire—Medical Officer for the Revesby District.
HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street—Physician.
HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, Soho Square—Assistant-Physician.
HUDDERSFIELD AND UPPER AGBRIGG INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon.
IRVINE, Ayrshire—Parochial Medical Officer.
KENSINGTON DISPENSARY—Resident Medical Officer.
KINGSBRIDGE UNION, Devonshire—Medical Officer for District No. 7.
LIVERPOOL DISPENSARIES—Resident House-Surgeon.
MANCHESTER, NEW BRIDGE STREET WORKHOUSE—Assistant-Resident Medical Officer.
MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL—Obstetric Assistant Medical Registrar, and Resident Medical Officer.
NATIONAL EYE AND EAR HOSPITAL AND GENERAL DISPENSARY, Cuffe Street, Dublin—Physician.
PHILIPSTOWN AND GEASHILL, King's County—Medical Officer to the Constabulary.
PRESTON UNION, Radnorshire—Medical Officer for the whole Union.
READING UNION, Berks.—Medical Officer for St. Mary District.
ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL, Reading—Physician.
ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN—Fullerian Professor of Physiology.
ROYAL KENT DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon; Surgeon for the Deptford District; Resident Medical Officer.
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL—Physician and Lecturer on Forensic Medicine.
SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL, Wolverhampton—Physician.
TORBAY INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY, Torquay—Physician and Two Surgeons.
TRINITY COLLEGE, Dublin—Professor of Botany.
TULLAMORE UNION, King's County—Medical Officer for the Philipstown Dispensary District and the Geashill Branch.
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL—Physician to the Skin Infirmary.
WYMONDHAM BRIDEWELL—Surgeon.
WANDSWORTH AND CLAPHAM UNION—Medical Officer for the Putney District.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAYMetropolitan 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. Thomas Bryant, Esq., F.R.C.S., "On Excision of the Knee-Joint;" Dr. Oppert, "Two Cases of Lead-Poisoning;" Dr. Buchanan, "On Local Conditions affecting the Distribution of Phthisis."
TUESDAY.—Pathological Society of London, 8 P.M.—Anthropological Society of London—Statistical Society.
WEDNESDAY.—Geological Society.
THURSDAY.—Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M.
SATURDAY.—Association Medical Officers of Health.

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.

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.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. E. B. Gise (Holbeach), Dr. A. T. H. Waters (Liverpool), Dr. Peacock (Honiton), Dr. R. Veris (London), Dr. Browne (Stockenstrom, Cape of Good Hope), Dr. Croft, Dr. Jones (Llanberis), Mr. W. C. Cass, Mr. R. Cooper Todd, Mr. Walter Smith (London), Mr. Reginald Harrison (Liverpool), and Dr. Stephens (Brighton), are thanked for their communications. Forms of applications and copies of documents have been forwarded where required.

We have received copies of the last Examination Papers for the Degree of M.B. at the University of Oxford. We are unable to find space for their publication, but will forward them to any one interested.

SPEAR & DOIDGE.

DEFENCE FUND.—Committee: J. Kemphorne, 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 whom, or to the Editors of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, 37, Great Queen Street; the *Medical Times and Gazette* (Messrs. Churchill and Sons); and the *Lancet*, 423, Strand—subscriptions may be paid. The following is the Subscription List. H. Babbage, Esq., London, £5; R. Willis, Esq., Horrabridge, £5; J. H. Willis, Esq., Lewdown, £5; C. Pethybridge, Esq., banker, Launceston, £5; J. Wilson Thompson, Esq., Launceston, £5; Dr. Littleton, Plymouth, £1; H. Walmsley, Esq., Preston, £1; T. Q. Couch, Esq., Bodmin, £1; H. E. Sargent, M.D., Polyphant, £1; J. Crocker, Esq., Stogumber, £1; W. P. Swain, Esq., Devonport, £1; J. Somer, Esq., Broadcliff, £1; J. Gould, Esq., Hatherleigh, £5; R. Kerswill, Esq., St. Germans, £1; A. W. Owen, Esq., Hatherleigh, £1; W. C. Northey, Tavistock, £1; J. Pearce, ditto, £1; R. Slemann, Esq., ditto, £1; W. Brown, Esq., Callington, £1; W. B. Dalby, M.D., H.M.S. *Implacable*, Devonport, £1; J. K. Cotton, Esq., Barnstaple, £5; Thos. Boyle, Esq., New Quay, 10s. 6d.; A. Kelly, Esq., Kelly, 10s.; John Wace, Esq., Clifton, £2; T. White, Esq., 10s.; A. Gaved, St. Mabyn, £1; C. R. Prance, M.D., Plymouth, £1; T. B. Harness, M.D., Tavistock, £1; anonymous, 10s.; Thomas Good, Esq., Launceston, £1; T. Langston, Esq., London, 10s.; W. J. Square, Esq., Plymouth, £1; R. J. Laity, Esq., Devonport, £1; Dr. Bulleice, Plymouth, £1; J. Thompson, M.D., Bideford, £1; R. Griffin, Esq., Weymouth, 5s.; W. P. Simpson, Esq., ditto, 5s.; Joseph Harper, Esq., Barnstaple, £1; A. Hingston, Esq., Liskeard, £1; J. H. S. May, Esq., Plymouth, 10s. 6d.; Rev. H. J. Morshead, Kelly, £1; H. T. Wood, Esq., Gunnislake, £1; W. A. Leslie, Esq., Bletchingly, 2s. 6d.; Trimmer, Esq., Okehampton, £1; Thos. Harper, Esq., Plymouth, 10s. 6d.; T. S., 7s. 6d. *The donation of Mr. Greenway, Plymouth, should have been announced, £3; 3.

P.S.—Small sums conveniently sent in postage-stamps. Further subscriptions are earnestly requested in aid of this good cause.

A PUZZLING CASE.

SIR,—I should be glad if any of your correspondents could give me a hint as to the successful treatment of the following case, which has hitherto entirely baffled me.

The patient is an unmarried lady, about the middle period of life, whose menstrual function is regularly performed; the flow, however, being generally very copious, and the subject of habitual costiveness. She is of a highly nervous and excitable temperament, and troubled with sleepless nights. Five or six years ago, she sustained a severe shock to the nervous system, from the fact of a surgical operation being performed upon her brother, to whom she was devoted, whom she afterwards nursed, and whose case ended fatally. She has not been like the same person since; and at the present time is so nervous, that the least noise or rap at the door causes her to jump off her seat. Many of her symptoms indicate an hysterical temperament; but the chief and most painful feature in the case is a want of circulation in the fingers and toes, especially the former, which has continued now for several years. The fingers become many times during the day, particularly in the morning and on any emotion, perfectly livid and cold, feeling as if stiff and dead, so that she is quite unable to hold anything, or attend to her duties. This state lasts for hours at a time, and is often succeeded by a death-like whiteness of the fingers.

Various remedies have been tried—many with none, a few with only slight and temporary relief; such as tonics, stimulants, antispasmodics, opiates, etc., regard being had always to the state of the bowels. I may add that loss of appetite is quite constant. I have found that variety of scene and occupation has a beneficial tendency; but, in the case in question, there is no possibility of having much recourse to this.

I am, etc.,

INQUIRER.

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.

ERRATUM.—In the Report of Dr. Hayden's paper on Circumscribed Emyema (*JOURNAL*, December 5th, page 602, col. ii, line 5, for "was rendered most improbable", read "was rendered not improbable".

PRINTING FOR THE BLIND.

SIR,—I have just read an article, copied from your *JOURNAL*, upon the education of the blind. I am glad to see so much active interest in their behalf. I have had little or no opportunity of becoming acquainted with their educational systems. All that I have seen has been a blind person here and there sitting in a public thoroughfare, reading from an embossed book (the Bible), formed of paper or thin card-board (the letters being embossed).

I have simply thought that metallic leaves would be better than those of this thin card-board: they might be made quite as thin as any book-paper, and formed of such a substance; the embossed letters would retain their sharp edges very much longer than they can possibly do when formed of the card-board. But for anything I know, these metallic leaves may be already in use. I am, etc., Stanley, near Liverpool, December 1868.

A WELL WISHER.

A PROVINCIAL STUDENT.—On reference to our advertising columns, you will find that the day for sending in applications is long passed. It is stated that there are nearly two hundred and fifty candidates for the Arts Examination.

A PROVINCIAL SURGEON.—We inserted the letters to prevent the possibility of any misunderstanding, and to meet the wish of the writers, who evidently, however, had misunderstood the paragraph. The return was the number of dissecting pupils at the schools mentioned; of course, there are several who have finished, and others who have not yet commenced their anatomical studies.

A MEMBER (Penzance).—The annual meeting of the Association will take place about the same time at Leeds.

Dr. McJ.—John Astley was born at Wem, Shropshire, where his father, a medical man, practised. In January, 1760, he married Lady Duckenfield Daniel. She died soon afterwards, when he inherited £5000 per annum, and gave himself up to the grossest dissipation. After Astley's decease, Dr. Graham exhibited, in Pall Mall, the delusive wonders of his "Celestial Bed", Mrs. Siddons's sister, Mrs. Curtis, representing the Paphian Goddess.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest:—The Wiltshire County Mirror, Dec. 16th; The Aberdeen Journal, Dec. 9th; The Birmingham Daily Post, Dec. 10th; The Aberdeen Free Press, Dec. 11th; The Aberdeen Herald, Dec. 12th; The Western Morning News, Dec. 12th; The Japan Times' Overland Mail, Oct. 21st; The Lincoln, Rutland, and Stamford Mercury, Dec. 11th; The Berkshire Chronicle; Aris's Birmingham Gazette.

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

Dr. J. Marston, London; Dr. Paget, Cambridge; Mr. R. Harrison, Liverpool; Mr. C. H. May, London; M.D., L.R.C.P.E., Cockermouth; Dr. Thorburn, Manchester; M.R.C.S.E., Droitwich; Dr. Ogston, Aberdeen; Sir Henry Cooper, Hull; Dr. Cameron, Liverpool; Dr. Wolfe, Glasgow; Dr. Headlam Greenhow, London; A Subscriber, Ballymena; Dr. Horace Dobell, London; Mr. F. C. Skey, London; Dr. Clay, Plymouth; Dr. Meadows, London; Colonel C. B. Ewart, London; Dr. J. Mulvany, Dundalk; Dr. Hingston, Plymouth; Dr. A. Ransome, Bowden; Mr. W. J. Square, Plymouth; Dr. Fleming, Birmingham; Mr. A. Baker, Birmingham; Dr. Samelson, Manchester; Dr. Broadbent, Manchester; Mr. Crosby Leonard, Clifton; Dr. W. Rivington, London; Dr. Waters, Chester; Dr. Waters, Liverpool; Mr. Willcox, Wareham; Mr. E. Hayward, Manchester; Mr. Peacock, Honiton, Devon; Mr. Gaine, Bath; and Mr. Stump, London.

LETTERS, ETC. (with enclosures) from:—

Dr. D. Dyce Brown, Aberdeen; Dr. R. Barnes, London; Mr. Heckford, London; Mr. Wanklyn, London; Mr. W. A. Harrison, London; Dr. C. Gage Brown, London; Mr. Holmes Coote, London; Dr. Barter, Bath; Dr. Page, Durham; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; The Registrar-General of Ireland; The Registrar-General of England; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Dr. John Murray, London; Dr. Treutler, Kew; Mr. C. J. Fox, London; Mr. J. Sampson Gamgee, Birmingham; Mr. Gant, London; Dr. Kristian Kionig, London; Mr. Pitman, Manchester; Mr. E. Chapman, Oxford; Dr. Humphry, Cambridge; Dr. Priestly, London; Dr. Thorowgood, London; Dr. Reith, Aberdeen; The Secretary of the Microscopical Society of London; G. H. S., Cumberland; Dr. C. W. Brown, Stockenstrom, Cape Colony; Mr. A. Fleischmann, Cheltenham; Dr. Rutherford, Edinburgh; Dr. Crighton, Leamington; Mr. H. Greenway, Plymouth; Dr. Percy Leslie, Birmingham; Mr. W. Smith, Clifton; Mr. Copney, London; Mr. J. Ashburton Thompson, London; Mr. T. Wharton Jones, London; The Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London; Messrs. Coleman and Co., London; Mr. S. Wood, Shrewsbury; Dr. H. Philipson, Newcastle-on-Tyne; and Mr. Overshed, Amptill.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

On the Conveyance of Cholera from India, through Persia, Armenia, and Georgia, to Russia and the rest of Europe. By John C. Peters, M.D. New York: 1868. The Glasgow University Calendar for the year 1868-69. Glasgow: 1868.

Conservative Surgery. By Albert G. Walters, M.D. Pittsburgh: 1867. Address of Samuel D. Gross, M.D., LL.S., President of the Association. Extracted from the Transactions of the American Medical Association. Philadelphia: 1868.

Report of the Proceedings of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane. Printed by direction of the Association. Harrisburg: 1868.

Report of the Waterford Lying-in Hospital for the year 1867-68. By Health and Meteorology of Newcastle and Gateshead. Fifth Report for 1868. By G. H. Philipson, M.A., M.D. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: 1868.

Transactions of the Pathological Society of London. Vol. XIX. London: 1868. Hooper's Physician's Vade Mecum. Eighth Edition. Revised by William Augustus Guy, M.B. Cantab., F.R.S., and John Harley, M.D. Lond., F.L.S. London: 1868.

The Practice of Medical Electricity. By G. D. Powell, M.D. Dublin: 1869. Four Letters on Homoeopathy. Addressed to a Manager of the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. With an Appendix on Homoeopathic Statistics. By Alexander Harvey, M.D. Aberdeen: 1868.

Cases in Surgery, illustrative of a New Method in applying the Wire Ligature in Compound Fractures of the Lower Jaw. By Hugh Owen Thomas, M.R.C.S. London: 1869.

A Manual of the Operations of Surgery: for the use of Senior Students, House-Surgeons, and Junior Practitioners. Illustrated. By James Bell, F.R.C.S. Edin. Second Edition. Revised and Enlarged. London and Edinburgh: 1869.

The Sanitary Aspect of the Sewage Question. By James Adams, M.D. Glasgow, Edinburgh, and London: 1868.

The Climatic Treatment of Consumption and Chronic Lung Diseases. By John C. Thorowgood, M.D. Lond. London: 1868.

Report of the Cam Purification Committee. Presented to the Board of Improvement Commissioners, December 1st, 1868. Cambridge: 1868.

A Medico-Legal Commentary on a Recent Trial. By James George Davey, M.D., Bristol.

Historic Teachings, or Facts for the Thoughtful. By James George Davey, M.D. London, Bristol, and Gloucester: 1868.

The Glasgow Medical Journal. Published quarterly. No. 1. November 1868.