

M. BRIERRE DE BOISMONT writes thus of Spanish bull-fights:—

“When we find a nation generous, polite, honest, literary and eminently religious, passionately attached to an amusement of most ancient origin, ought we, because it offends our moral sense, because it appears cruel, to condemn it without discussion? If we were discussing the expulsion of the Moors, the *auto-da-fés* of the Inquisition, the persecution of the Jews, the cruelties practised on the Indians, and the ferocities of civil wars, we could readily settle the question; for in these cases humanity is concerned. In France, tauro-machia has warm partisans; and, as we are told, that strangers become enthusiastically fond of the sport when they have twice assisted at a bull-fight. I have often heard it said, that the sight is painful and repulsive; but, on analysing my own sensations, I must frankly confess that this circus-game has not been repulsive to me. On the contrary, I admired the courage, the skill, and coolness, of the toreros. The struggle between the savage animal and man appeared to me grand and full of interest, as is every struggle in which life is hazarded. Again, the enthusiasm of the multitude is not to be forgotten; their cries, the *furia* of voices, prove that the national sentiments are deeply stirred at the spectacle. It may be called a madness; but the madness of a people is often but the explosion of half-satisfied ideas. The history of Spain is full of grand deeds, of admirable acts of devotion, of chivalrous loyalty; but its sombre pages attest but too well how these generous tendencies are arrested in their development, and how often they are turned from the natural path.”

WE must not be sparing of the blood in acute iritis; timidity in taking blood in such cases is very hurtful. Resolution of the inflammation is the only means by which we can save the organ. Mercurials also are as efficacious in iritis as they are in peritonitis. Thus writes Dr. Deval, in a *Treatise on the Diseases of the Eye*, which has just appeared! Not a bad specimen this, at all events, of the differences of doctors.

A prize is offered by the Medical Society of Rhode Island in 1862, for the best treatise on the question whether or no there are any proofs to show that fevers and inflammations have undergone a change of type.

La Société de Biologie, having been referred to as arbitrator in the vexed question of the revivification of desiccated animals, formed a committee, consisting of MM. Balbiani, Bertholet, Brown-Séquard, Darest, Guillemin, and Broca, to investigate the subject. The necessary experiments have been repeated before them, and they have sent in their report, of which the following are the chief conclusions:—“The animals which are called *reviviscent* are those which are capable of being reanimated by moisture, after having lost (to all appearance), through more or less complete desiccation, all manifestations of life. When introduced into a moist medium, they live like ordinary animals; they are not to be distinguished by any sign, anatomical or physiological, and cannot support a temperature above 50° cent. without being destroyed. When deprived of all appearance of life by natural desiccation in the open air,

they can sustain a much higher temperature without losing the property of reviviscence. Their resistance to high temperatures appears to increase in proportion to their previous degree of desiccation. The rotifera may be reanimated, after having been left eighty-two days in a dry vacuum, and immediately afterwards subjected to a temperature of 100° cent. during twenty minutes. Consequently, certain animals dried at ordinary temperatures and by heat, and having been reduced to as complete a degree of desiccation as can be obtained without causing their decomposition, are capable of revivification in contact with water. Certain organic matters previously desiccated, act, in this respect, like these animals. There is reason, therefore, to believe that when the heat is so applied as not to destroy the chemical composition of the bodies of the rotifera, it will not destroy their vitality. Hence, then, we may conclude, that the property of reviviscence appears to be as permanent in the rotifera as the organic matter of which they are composed.”

“During twenty years of practice,” writes Dr. Rivaud-Landrau of Lyons, “I have performed 2317 operations for cataract after the three usual modes of operating, namely, 2073 cases of extraction, 177 by depression, and 67 by division.”

Association Intelligence.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH:

ROCHESTER, MAIDSTONE, GRAVESEND, AND DARTFORD DISTRICT MEETINGS.—FIFTH SERIES.

THE next meeting for the present session will be held at the Star Hotel, Maidstone, on Friday, October 25th, at 2.15 p.m.

Dinner (punctually at 4.45 p.m.) will be prepared for those who may be able to remain.

Trains will leave for Rochester and London and all stations on the North Kent Line at 7.30 and 9.0 p.m.

Gentlemen intending to dine, are requested to give an intimation thereof on or before Wednesday, October 23rd, to Mr. FAY, Maidstone; or to

JAMES DULVEY, *Honorary Secretary*.

Brompton, Chatham, October 8th, 1861.

EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN BRANCH: GENERAL MEETING.

A GENERAL MEETING of this Branch was held at the Yarborough Hotel, Grimsby, on Wednesday, October 9, at two o'clock in the afternoon; Sir H. COOPER, M.D., President, in the Chair. About fifteen members were present, comprising medical men from Hull, Grimsby, and the neighbouring district.

Papers. The following papers and communications were made:—

1. Foetid Expectoration. By Sir H. Cooper, M.D.
2. Cases of Apnoea, illustrative of the value of Direct Inflation of the Lungs. By H. Sandwith, M.D.
3. A Case of Amputation of the Thigh, in which *Wife Pressure* was used as a Substitute for the Ligature. By J. Dix, Esq.
4. On Irregular Uterine Contraction. By T. B. Keetley, Esq.
5. A Case of Retention of Urine with Incision into the Perineum and Fistulous Openings above the Pubes.

By T. B. Keetley, Esq. Mr. Keetley followed the example of the Hull medical men at the last meeting, in presenting the patient, illustrative of the last case, for inspection.

The papers will be forwarded for insertion in future numbers of the JOURNAL.

Dinner. At the termination of the meeting, about twenty members and friends dined together. Sir H. Cooper presided, and H. M. Leppington, Esq., the Mayor of Grimsby, occupied the vice-chair.

Reports of Societies.

OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND, 1861.

W. TYLER SMITH, M.D., President, in the Chair.

The following gentlemen were proposed for election:—Dr. Aldridge, Dorchester; Mr. J. G. Appleton, Luton, Beds.; Dr. Armstrong, Gravesend; Mr. Jos. Atherley, Mountsorrel; Mr. J. S. Bartrum, Bath; Mr. F. Bennett, Gateshead; Mr. T. W. Blake, Hurstbourne Tarrant; Mr. S. W. Brown, Lewisham; Dr. Bunny, Newbury; Dr. Candlish, Alnwick; Mr. John Candy, West Bromwich; Mr. A. P. Carter, Gloucester; Mr. S. Clogg, East Looe; Mr. H. W. Clifford, Cheltenham; Dr. Cocker, Blackpool; Mr. H. D. C. De la Motte, Swanage; Mr. R. H. Derry, Plymouth; Mr. H. W. Down, Glastonbury; Mr. T. A. Essery, Swansea; Dr. G. Evans, Carlisle; Mr. H. Ewen, Long Sutton; Dr. Fetherston, Melbourne, Australia; Mr. H. L. Freeman, Saxmundham; Mr. W. J. R. French, Wilton; Mr. H. R. Harris, Bury; Mr. D. M'Veagh, Coventry; Dr. S. Palmer, Newbury; and Dr. Shortt, Chinglepet, Madras.

Two Ovarian Cysts removed by Ovariectomy, were exhibited by Mr. SPENCER WELLS. The first was removed from a single woman, aged 27, who had never been tapped, on August 7th. It was merely a single cyst; but a small group of secondary cysts had led to the rejection of iodine injection. The cyst contained forty-four pints of fluid. The patient is quite well.

The second cyst was compound. The largest cavity had held twenty pints of fluid. The patient was single, aged 35, and had been tapped twice. Ovariectomy was performed on August 15th, and the patient rapidly recovered.

Stone from the Female Bladder. Mr. SPENCER WELLS presented a stone, which he had removed the day before from a patient, aged 54, after dilating the urethra by his fluid dilator. It weighed eight drachms and fifteen grains, but was easily removed. The chief point of interest to obstetricians was that the patient had been treated for several years for supposed incurable disease of the uterus; but Dr. Savage, on being consulted, at once detected the true cause of the suffering, and requested Mr. Wells to remove it.

Case of Pelvic Cellulitis. Dr. HATHERLY, R.N., communicated the case of C. P., aged 29, who was seized five weeks after an easy labour (her second) with pain of the left iliac region and groin, attended with pelvic fulness and difficult micturition. This terminated after ten weeks in abscess, which pointed, and was opened on Dec. 20th, just above Poupart's ligament, giving exit to thirteen ounces of pus. On the 25th the discharge, which had been very profuse, suddenly ceased, when tumefaction, with pain of the left thigh, opposite the saphenous opening, took place, and in six days a large abscess had formed there, which was opened by valvular incision, and gradually emptied. This was followed in five days by symptoms of pyæmia, from which she rallied under a stimulating and generous scale of food and me-

dicine, and ultimately recovered. She became pregnant again in twelve months, and in due time passed through her parturient and puerperal states without a bad symptom.

Historical Notes on Displacement of the Unimpregnated Uterus as a cause of Displacement of the Gravid Organ. Dr. AVELING, of Sheffield, communicated a paper, to show that displacement of the unimpregnated uterus as a cause of displacement of the gravid uterus was known and pointed out by Morgagni, and that the same views have since been held by several members of the profession, who have arrived at the same conclusions, each unconscious of the other's writings.

Dr. TYLER SMITH observed that the object of the author seemed to be to show that his (Dr. Smith's) views on the cases of retroversion of the gravid uterus had been anticipated by Morgagni and others. His own paper, which had been referred to, was exclusively directed to the subject of retroversion; but it was remarkable that in the quotations given by Dr. Aveling there was not a single practical observation upon retroversion of the gravid uterus. The displacements referred to were the different forms of lateral obliquity of the pregnant organ. Only one of the authors cited spoke at all of retroflexion, and then in a purely speculative manner. His own view, as opposed to that of William Hunter, that retroversion of the gravid uterus was caused by the impregnation and development of the previously retroverted uterus was published in 1856, and it had not yet been shown that this fact had been understood by previous writers.

ON THE INFLUENCE OF ABNORMAL PARTURITION, DIFFICULT LABOUR, PREMATURE BIRTH, AND ASPHYXIA NEONATORUM ON THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE CHILD, ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO DEFORMITIES. BY W. J. LITTLE, M.D.

The author stated that pathology had gradually taught that the fetus *in utero* was subject to diseases similar to those which affect the economy at later periods of existence, and particularly as regards deformities. Thus we had congenital and non-congenital club-foot, rickets, degeneration of muscles, and amputations *in utero*. But there was another epoch of existence, namely, the period of birth, during which the fetus was subjected apparently to conditions differing from those of either its earlier or its later existence. The object of his communication was to show that the act of birth did occasionally imprint upon the nervous and muscular systems very serious and peculiar evils.

Nearly twenty years ago the author had shown that premature birth, difficult labours, mechanical injuries during parturition to the head and neck where life had been saved, and convulsions following the act of birth, were apt to be succeeded by a determinate affection of the limbs of the child, which he then designated "spastic rigidity from asphyxia neonatorum."

Medical writers seemed unaware that abnormal parturition, besides ending in the death or recovery of the child, had also a termination in other diseases. In orthopædic practice alone he had met with probably two hundred cases of spastic rigidity or paralysis from this cause; and he believed he was now able to form an opinion of the nature of the anatomical lesions and the particular abnormal event at birth on which the symptoms depended.

The state of things in the fetus at the moment of birth—at the moment of entire withdrawal of placental or maternal circulatory influence—was one of imminent failure in decarbonisation of the blood. If pulmonary respiration were not immediately established, suspended animation, asphyxia neonatorum, took place. This, he inferred, was followed by stagnation of blood in all the large venous channels, and inevitable congestion of the capillary systems of the brain and spinal cord; and, if

In reply, I simply said that, however valuable the food might be, the source from whence it came was so very questionable that I should not recommend it.

Mr. Sellers may suggest any food that he likes, or any system of dietary that he thinks proper; but I think that our knowledge of the kinds of aliment necessary for the maintenance of healthy life render it unnecessary to resort to the quackish compounds at present in use.

I am, etc., W. H. RAMSDEN.

Park House, Royston, Oct. 3, 1861.

IS ALCOHOL FOOD OR MEDICINE?

LETTER FROM J. HIGGINBOTTOM, ESQ., F.R.S.

SIR,—I was much interested with the excellent leading article in your JOURNAL of the 5th inst., namely, "Is Alcohol Food or Medicine?" I should answer, neither. It is now generally admitted that alcohol is not an aliment. From daily observation, practice, and experience, for more than half a century, I can positively vouch that alcohol is not a medicine. What is medicine? It is a term derived from "*medeo*, to cure." During my long practice, I have never seen or known a single disease cured by alcohol; on the contrary, it is an extensive producer of disease. I can say, with my late old instructor, Dr. James Gregory, Professor of the Practice of Physic in the University of Edinburgh, "I never got a patient by water drinking, but thousands by strong drink."

Twenty of the first years of my practice, I followed the custom of my professional brethren, and gave alcohol in various forms to my patients; but, from a full conviction of its injurious and dangerous properties, I then discontinued it altogether. For about thirty years I have not once ordered it in any form, either as a beverage or as a medicine; and I can vouch that it is not required; on the contrary, I have found acute disease is sooner cured, and chronic disease much more manageable without it. I have read what our late physiologists have said about alcohol as a beverage, and as a medicine, and have come to the conclusion that nothing has been advanced to prove it, either as a beverage or as a medicine, satisfactorily. If any of your numerous readers can enlighten me on the subject, I shall be glad.

I commenced my *improved* practice with a firm determination to prevent and cure drunkards. Before that period, such a cure was scarcely ever known, as drunkenness was deemed as an incurable disease. An honourable and learned member of the House of Commons once said that "he understood the cause of drunkenness was taking intoxicating drinks." I have acted upon his *learned* saying; and have found it true; by simply discontinuing it, all drunkards are cured.

During that long period of nearly thirty years, I have not known a single patient injured by the disuse of alcohol; and, although surrounded by about forty medical men, many of them, clever, intelligent practitioners, not one of them has accused me of malpractice, and in our medical meetings, where the subject has been discussed over and over again, they have not impugned my treatment.

I am, etc.,

J. HIGGINBOTTOM.

Nottingham, Oct. 8, 1861.

DR. LANKESTER ON ALCOHOL.

LETTER FROM DR. LEES.

SIR,—I have just read your very admirable leader on "Is Alcohol Food or Physic?" I do not see where the *logic* of it is vulnerable, so far as the facts go which are before you. But have you *all* the facts before you that Dr. Lankester had before his mind when arriving at his conclusions? I am happy to be enabled to tell you, on

his own authority, that he has *special* facts for the justification of his views, of which the general public know nothing.

In the Health Section of the late Social Science Congress at Dublin, a debate on the teetotal question took place, during which the experiments on alcohol of the Parisian *savans*, Professors Lallemand and Perrin, were mentioned, as proving that the greater part, if not all, of the alcohol introduced into the body in moderate doses, was *eliminated* from the system by a persistent process through various excretions. Dr. Lankester waited until the close of the debate, and then announced that he had falsified the French book by some experiments on himself and his own children, "proving," to use his exact words, "that the bichromate of potass test was *utterly worthless*." No particulars and details were given; but as Dr. Brinton, Dr. Parkes, Dr. Edward Smith, Professor Carpenter, Dr. Chambers, and many other lights, have been *deluded* by these fallacious experiments, is it not high time that the profession should solicit Dr. Lankester to publish his conclusive and destructive experiments? The doctor holds strong opinions on this subject, and is by no means reticent in the expression of them.

I am, etc.,

F. R. LEES.

Kent House, Leeds, Oct. 8, 1861.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. The following gentlemen passed the first part of the professional examination for the licence of the College, on the 11th instant:—

Barrett, John James, St. Thomas's Hospital
Brodie, George Bernard, St. George's Hospital
Chandler, Edward, Charing Cross Hospital
Hicks, John Wale, St. Thomas's Hospital
Owles, James Alden, St. George's Hospital
Rawlins, William Peter, University College
Vernon, Bowater John, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Willey, Henry, King's College
Woodman, Frederick, Guy's Hospital

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. The following members of the College, having undergone the necessary examinations, were admitted Licentiates in Midwifery at a meeting of the Board, on October 10th:—

Belcher, Joseph S., Royal Ophthalmic Hospital, Charing Cross: diploma of membership dated April 17, 1861
Howell, Horace Sydney, Maldstone: April 10, 1860
Kenpe, Charles P., Crugsallack, Cornwall: June 3, 1861
Owen, Owen, Foranryd, Anglesea: April 17, 1861
Rowland, Henry O., Birmingham: April 18, 1861
Stewart, Charles John, Montague Place, Kentish Town: March 11, 1859
Taylor, Frederic, Woodstock: April 13, 1850

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND. The following gentlemen were created Doctors of Medicine on Friday, October 4th:—

Adair, James J.	Ireland, Arthur J.
Barrett, Richard	Jones, William H.
Bartley, A. George	McCorry, Peter
Blackett, Edward R.	Moorhead, —
Breen, Michael	Moore, John H.
Buchanan, Leonard D.	O'Flynn, Denis J.
Burke, John P.	Riordan, Denis
Burke, John R.	Shannon, George
Hooper, Robert W.	Stoney, John H. L.
Hutchinson, James	Waller, Edmund
Hawthorne, John	

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On October 10th, the following licentiates were admitted:—

Armstrong, George W., King's College
Hadwin, Anselm St. John, Waterloo Road
Lockwood, William, Holmfirth, Yorkshire
Pearce, George, Bishopstow, Wilts
Seller, John Larden, Neston, Cheshire

APPOINTMENTS.

FERGUSON, John C., M.B., re-elected Physician to the Belfast General Hospital.
 GORDON, Alexander, M.D., re-elected Surgeon to the Belfast General Hospital.
 *GREAVES, George, Esq., appointed Consulting Surgeon to the Chorlton Union Hospital, and Lecturer on Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children in the Manchester Royal School of Medicine.
 HARDING, G. D., Esq., elected Resident Surgeon to the Cumberland Infirmary.
 MASON, Francis, Esq., elected Assistant-Surgeon to King's College Hospital, in the room of *P. C. Price, Esq., resigned.
 PALFREY, James, M.D., appointed Assistant-Physician to the Metropolitan Free Hospital.
 WESTMACOTT, J. V. L., Esq., appointed Resident Medical Officer to the Chorlton Union Workhouse and Hospital.

ROYAL ARMY. The following appointments have been made:—

GALBRAITH, Staff-Surgeon G. T. M.D., to be Surgeon-Major.
 LOCKWOOD, Surgeon A. P., 2nd Dragoons, to be Surgeon-Major.

ROYAL NAVY. The following appointments have been made:—

BREMER, John T. U., Esq., to the *Lord Dalhousie*, convict ship.
 MONTEITH, L. J., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Aboutir*.

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

CANDLER, J., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 2nd Administrative Battalion Norfolk R.V.
 GISSING, J. S., Esq., to be Assist.-Surgeon 2nd Battalion Suffolk R.V.
 STEWART, W. E., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 40th Middlesex R.V.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM. The following gentlemen have been appointed, for the year, Examiners of the Newcastle College of Medicine, in connection with the University of Durham:—

DAWSON, William, M.D. McNAY, Thomas F., M.D.
 FENWICK, Samuel, M.D. RICHARDSON, Dr. T.

BIRTH.

FLOWMAN. On October 15th, at North Curry, Somerset, the wife of *Thomas Flowman, Esq., of a son.

MARRIAGE.

Macy, the Rev. V. H., curate of St. Barnabas, Bristol, second son of *H. J. Macy, Esq., of West Town, Somerset, to Sarah Mehetabel, youngest daughter of the late Major James C. Travers, K.H., of the 11th Brigade, at Lynton, Essex, on October 12.

DEATHS.

BOSTOCK. On October 11th, at 5, Ulster Terrace, Regent's Park, aged 83, Ann, widow of John Bostock, M.D., F.R.S.
 GRAMSHAW. On October 6th, at Esher, aged 78, Frances, widow of the late W. F. Gramshaw, Esq., Surgeon, Hincley.
 HUTCHINSON. On October 5th, at Notting Hill Terrace, Grace, widow of William W. Hutchinson, M.D., of Ripon.
 *MACAULAY, Thomas, Esq., Surgeon to the Leicester Infirmary, at Leicester, aged 60, on October 4.
 *RAMSAY, Peter, M.D., at Liverpool, aged 79, on October 12.
 STOCK. Late, at 7, Upper Brook Street, aged 82, Charlotte, widow of John E. Stock, M.D.
 WRIGHT, Thain, Esq., Surgeon, late of Hammersmith, at Caversham, Oxfordshire, aged 68, on October 13.

POLITICS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. PETERSBURG. There has been a "lock out" at the University of St. Petersburg. Liberal ideas are, it seems, budding forth too rapidly.

REMEDY FOR OBESITY. The use of the leaves and stems of *Fucus vesiculosus*, or common sea-weeds, in decoction, powders, or pills, as a cure for excessive obesity, is strongly advocated by Dr. Duchesne Duparcque, in the *Journal of Medicine and Surgery*.

A CRINOLINE ACCIDENT. On Tuesday last, as Dr. Andrew Dell, of Harrington Square, was proceeding through Crawley Street, his foot caught in the steel wire in the extended dress of a lady passing from the opposite direction, causing him to fall violently on the pavement, fracturing the bones of his ankle.

RENUNCIATION OF HOMOEOPATHY. Three other homoeopathic practitioners of New York, emulating the example of Dr. John C. Peters, have published over their signatures, in the *American Medical Times*, a renunciation of their faith in the doctrines propounded by Hahnemann. (*Phil. Rep.*)

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND. The session of the Catholic University, under its new President, was inaugurated on Sunday with great pomp; Archbishop Cullen was present, and, the *Morning News* says, delivered "a magnificent oration". There will be a great effort made to get a charter and an endowment for this institution.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL. Mr. Francis Mason of Woburn Square, surgeon to the St. Pancras and Northern Dispensary, has just been elected assistant-surgeon to King's College Hospital, in the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. P. C. Price, whose continued indisposition necessitates a temporary retirement to a warmer climate.

CRYSTAL PALACE. The professors of the Crystal Palace School of Art, Science, and Literature, commence their lectures on the 17th inst., and continue them on each succeeding Thursday. The subject chosen by Dr. Lankester is "The Physiology of the Nervous System in relation to Health and Education," while Dr. Dresser's course will be on the "Art of Decorative Design."

CURE FOR EDEMA. A boy, aged 13, having hitherto enjoyed excellent health, was seized with slight oedema of the feet and one hand, in consequence of exposure. A pseudo-phlebotomist scarified the part, and then cauterised it so deeply and so often with sulphuric acid, that the bones were laid bare, and finally the hand and the two feet became sphacelous, and dropped off. (*Gaz. Med. Italiana.*)

A BUSINESS-LIKE EDITOR. The editor of the *Philadelphia Medical Reporter* says:—"In looking over our stock of *Reporters* on hand, we find a surplus of some numbers, of which some of our collaborators may desire to possess the copies containing their communications. Any such who will send us their address, enclosing one dollar, shall be supplied with such number of copies as will satisfy them. First sent first served."

MEDIUMS IN AMERICA. The spiritualists, to the disgrace of the intelligence and education of the New England States, prevail in Connecticut and Maine, and spread across the states to the west, so that there is scarce a little town in which there is not an advertising "medium," who prepares prescriptions according to recipes given her or him by angels (on the cheapest terms) for all sorts of diseases, and practises all sorts of blasphemous, wicked, and shameless impostures on the miserable victims of superstition."

MEDICAL VACANCIES. The following appointments are now vacant:—Surgeons to the Leicester Infirmary, by the resignation of Mr. Thomas Paget, and by the death of Mr. Macaulay; House-Surgeon to the same Infirmary, by the resignation of Mr. Charles H. Marriott; Physician to the Durham County Hospital, by the resignation of Dr. Thomas L. Watkin; Poor-Law Medical Officers for the parish of Dawlish, in the Newton Abbot Union, Devonshire, and for South Ruabon District, in the Wrexham Union.

THE AMERICAN ARMIES. 12,000 patients, it is said, fill the hospitals in Richmond, (dis-)United States. In Richmond, or rather in the camps around it, fifty per cent. of the troops have been stricken down with the measles. Private hospitals for the reception and better treatment of the invalids have been opened from day to day, until every street, almost every square of the city, has its long sick list, and the ladies are worn out in their attentions to the sufferers. As yet there has

been no great fatality among the thousands of cases, but just as soon as a dozen have been discharged as well from a hospital, their beds have been filled. On the other hand, the health of the federal troops is reported as remarkably good.

JUNIOR MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. The opening meeting of this Society will be held at Guy's Hospital, on Thursday, October 24th, at 8 p.m.; when a paper will be read by Mr. J. P. Weaver, on "Jaundice." The paper will be preceded by the exhibition of pathological specimens by the members. After the reading of the paper, there will be a *conversazione*, the museum, etc., being thrown open.

A MEDICAL MAJOR. "We take pleasure in stating," writes the *American Medical Times*, "that Sam. D. Crawford, M.D., the heroic surgeon of Fort Sumter, has been appointed a major in the regular army. On the occasion of the bombardment of that fort, he performed the part of a commandant of a portion of the ordnance, and exhibited great bravery. On his arrival in New York, Dr. Crawford became an active and most efficient agent in organisations for supplying needful hospital supplies to meet the apparent emergency; government has but justly rewarded true merit. We understand that Dr. Crawford left the medical staff with much reluctance and regret. He has been ordered to report to General Rosencranz, in Western Virginia."

DEATH FROM PASSION. An awfully sudden death took place lately at the village of Sherwood, near Nottingham. Mr. William Hill was preparing his breakfast on the morning in question, when a neighbour named Eli Worthington came to the door, and began to aggravate Hill by using abusive language. Hill's son, upon hearing this abuse, went out, and as Worthington was in a fighting attitude the former struck the latter, and they fought a round. The neighbours parted them, but Worthington wanted to fight again. The elder Hill got into a great passion, urging on his son to continue the fight, exclaiming, "Go into him; give him as much as you can! Get on the highest ground!" after which he fell upon his side in the door-way and immediately expired. An inquest was held upon the body the same evening, when the jury returned their verdict, "That the deceased died from great excitement by the sudden visitation of God."

THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND. On Friday week a meeting of the senate of the Queen's University was held, in St. Patrick's Hall, Dublin, and degrees were conferred upon the students. The Lord Chancellor, as Vice Chancellor of the University, occupied the chair. The Vice Chancellor delivered the annual address, from which it appears that there is an important increase in the number of those who passed their final examination for 1861:—In 1860 it was 80; this year it was 98—21 for the degree of doctor of medicine, 31 for the degree of bachelor of arts, and 8 for master of arts. In the course of the year local middle-class examinations had been held in Dublin, Belfast, Cork, and Galway, which were attended by 72 candidates from the different schools, of whom 23 obtained certificates. In the Queen's Colleges the number of attending students has progressively increased. In the season of 1858-9 it was 430; in 1859-60 it rose to 546; and this year it is 657, showing an increase of 111 over last year.

A REJECTED CONVERT FROM HOMŒOPATHY. "Allow one of your readers to remark," writes a medical man in the *American Medical Times*, "that it seems somewhat strange to him, that Dr. Peters has not made this renunciation before; now, when homœopathy is on its last legs, and is getting to be considered by the public, as it always has by the honest, intelligent part of our profession, as an artful imposture, and transcendent humbug, it requires no great sacrifice of feeling and interest to

cast it aside, and with an apology, such as it is, endeavour to gain a *status* in a profession he has done much to disparage and misrepresent. For one, I must acknowledge, I cannot receive Dr. Peters's apology as an adequate atonement for his course during nearly the whole twenty years of his professional life; for, besides the impossibility of conceiving of any satisfactory apology, from a man of known talent, knowledge, and experience, for countenancing and encouraging such a humbug for so long a time, inasmuch as no apology can be offered, which will not impeach either a man's honesty, or his reason and common sense."

GERMAN SAVANS IN PRISON. "The intellectual classes," says a correspondent of *Athenæum*, "have endured too much not to revert to their sufferings. I was sitting the other day at a public table when the conversation turned upon imprisonment. Amongst the rather numerous company, mostly all men of intellectual pursuits, scarcely one had not been imprisoned for political offences, their terms of confinement varying from two months to thirty-two years; Herder (a grandson of the great poet) being an instance of the former; Schultz-Bipontinus, the botanist, of the latter. In most instances, they were not harshly treated, and in a few cases even with kindness. The most amusing account was given by Dr. Ule, a popular writer on Natural History, who had simply to live in prison, and was allowed full liberty to go out; and when returning rather late at night, he had often to knock up the jailor to let him in. In England people are found to wonder why scientific men should ever mix in politics; but they are apt to overlook the fact, that it was not a question about forms of government, extension of the suffrage, or even illegal taxation, which drove them into the ranks of the Opposition, but the intolerable interference of the Government with their quiet studies; they were persecuted because they refused to make their knowledge subservient to dynastic interest or certain narrow views of religion."

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. From the annual return of the receipts and expenditure of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, from Midsummer-day 1860 to Midsummer-day 1861, and just published, it appears that the former amounted to £13,894:10:4, principally from the following sources:—Diploma for membership, £10,983; rent, £627:1:8; fellowship, £325; certificates in dental surgery, £451:10; licenses in midwifery, £138:12. The disbursements amounted to £13,581:14:1, divided under the following heads:—*College Department*—£8831:15:4, including council, court of examiners, dental boards, midwifery boards, auditors, fellowship, diploma stamps, salaries, wages, etc.; *Museum Department*—£2278:2:2, including catalogues, specimens, salaries, wages, etc.; *Library Department*—£594:10:6, including purchase and binding of books, salaries, etc. The receipts, therefore, being £13,894:10:4, and the disbursements £13,581:14:1, there remains a sum of £312:16:3 to be carried to the college funds. The receipts last year amounted to £22,307:9:8, and the disbursements to £21,906:18:3.

LECTURE IN A LUNATIC ASYLUM. Last week a lecture was delivered before the male and female patients in the Chester Lunatic Asylum. The lecture was upon "Chester," and took place in a spacious room known as the "ballroom," which is capable of holding 300 people. The walls were hung round with a series of large, well-executed sepia drawings, a number of engravings, and a variety of pictures illustrative of the old modes of punishment by means of the "scold's bridle," the "helmet," the "pillory," and the "ducking stool." There were present 120 female and 100 male patients, the attendants, and a few strangers. The patients were divided, the males on one side and the females on the other. A blind lady presided at the piano, and played

several pieces in the course of the evening. The patients listened to the lecture with the greatest attention, and laughed heartily at some of the stories told. There were no interruptions, and the applause which greeted certain portions of the lecture evidenced the possession of considerable appreciative powers on the part of the audience.

A DOCTEUR NOIR IN AMERICA. The mania for quackery in Vermont is again raging. A few years ago Thomsonianism overran this portion of Vermont, as well as other States. Having run its race, it disappeared, leaving behind it a long train of evils, which time and the skill of the regular practitioner had done much to remedy. The people were rife for whatever "new thing" might appear; and when the "negro doctor" dropped down in their midst, the quack mania revived in all its former vigour. The lame, the halt, blind, the sick, with all manner of diseases, flocked to this new pool of Siloam. The "doctor" had visited the London hospitals (as sub-waiter, perhaps), had practised with the best physicians of the country (as groom, probably), and there was no disease he could not cure. Indeed, under the magic influence of his touching and rubbing process, the soothing effect of his "thongs," one of his favourite prescriptions to excite the muscular and nervous systems, those who had been bed-ridden for years, went walking and leaping away from the pool, chanting the doctor's praises. The "news" flew on the wings of the wind, and the "whites" are all agog to pay tribute to the "negro." From all quarters, the sick, and those who fancy they are sick, rush in, until two "hospitals" are now filled. All are certainly to be cured. Strange to say, some die; but this only proves the efficiency of the treatment pursued, and of the remedies given, but offers no check to the enthusiasm awakened in the doctor's behalf. Some are cruel enough to insinuate that "he" knows nothing about medical science (and they are probably correct); and some say he disappeared in a mysterious manner from his last place of abode; but others are quite sure he knows everything, and, besides, his manipulations in the examination of his patients are quite agreeable and soothing, and so the tide sets yet strongly in his favour. The "negro doctor" is all the toast. He has performed no *permanent* "cure" that is wonderful, but he holds out to all the glittering bait of hope; and distressed, afflicted humanity, is always eager to grasp it. (*Phil. Med. Rep.*)

TESTIMONIALS TO DR. BATTERSBY. On September 20th, a farewell dinner was given by the medical profession in Torquay to Dr. Battersby, on the occasion of his leaving the town in consequence of ill health, after a residence there of nearly twenty-six years. Dr. Evanson, who presided, in proposing Dr. Battersby's health and happiness, and speedy return, spoke of him as "the faithful friend, the enlightened man of science, and the skilful physician, devoted to his patients, and kind and considerate towards his professional brethren." The following address, signed by eighteen medical men of the town, was presented to Dr. Battersby: "Dear Dr. Battersby,—Before you take your departure from among us, we must be permitted to express our feelings of regret at losing so valuable a friend, and so estimable a member of the medical profession. Devoted to the interests of your patients, conciliatory and just towards your professional brethren, your unassuming deportment but added to the value of your high scientific attainments and well known medical skill. While we regret your departure on our own account, we cannot but congratulate those who will be so fortunate as to have you among them: though we trust that with renewed health and strength, we shall ourselves have the satisfaction of again seeing you at Torquay." On Saturday last, a meeting of the patients and friends of Dr. Battersby was held in the lecture room of the Torquay Natural

History Society to express, by the presentation of a handsome testimonial, comprising a powerful binocular microscope and gold chronometer, of the value of £100, their appreciation of his high attainments and their regret that the state of his health necessitates his leaving the country for a time. The duty of presenting the beautiful gift was delegated to the Rev. W. J. Smithwick, one of the early members of the society, and an old and attached friend of Dr. Battersby's. Amongst the company present were—Capt. Atkinson, R.N., Dr. Black, Dr. Blake, Dr. Coombs, Dr. Radclyffe Hall, Mr. C. Kitson, Mr. W. H. Kitson, Mr. York Moore, Mr. Pengelly, Mr. W. Pollard, Mr. W. K. Spragge, Mr. Stewart, Mr. W. W. Stabb, Mr E. Vivian, etc.

Varieties.

PRECOCIOUS PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT. Pliny tells a tale of a boy who at three years of age was four feet high; and the story of the lad mentioned by Craterus who married and died, leaving issue in his seventh year, is not so profoundly improbable after all. Mr. White, surgeon, mentions a boy who used to come to his house, who was three feet two high when only two years and a half old, and was built like a Farnese Hercules, and lifted forty pounds with ease. M. Breschet showed the phrenologist Spurzheim a boy who, at three years of age, was three feet six and three-quarters. Mr. South had under his care a boy, who, at little more than three years old, was three feet seven high, weighed four stone eight pounds, and had a splendid development of muscle. In every instance this vast physical development was purchased at the expense of all that renders life precious—health, active energy, intellect, duration of life, enjoyment of society, and the hope of offspring. (*All the Year Round.*)

MEDICAL DEGREES IN SPAIN. According to an Act of the Spanish Legislature passed during the reign of her present Majesty, and promulgated subsequently by royal ordonnance, no institution of the realm now grants the degree of doctor in medicine or surgery, unless by the central University of Madrid, which was only instituted about twenty-five years ago, viz., on removing the ancient Alma Mater of Alcala de Henares to the metropolis. In order to obtain either of the above academic titles, students must study during not less than seven years in some Spanish University; one of which, however, it is imperative to have spent in attending medical lectures at the Faculty in Madrid, and that prior to graduation. As none but such graduates in medicine or surgery can now fill the office of physician or surgeon to hospitals, or obtain various other public appointments, it follows that the new central university possesses a real controlling power respecting medical education. (*Brit. and Foreign Medico-Chir. Rev.*, October 1861.)

THE DARWINIAN THEORY. Mr. Darwin's development theory has been thus versified by a writer in Blackwood:—

"From reptiles and fishes to birds we ascend,
And quadrupeds next their dimensions extend;
Till we rise up to monkeys and men—where we end,
Which nobody can deny.

"A deer with a neck that is longer by half
Than the rest of its family (try not to laugh),
By stretching and stretching becomes a giraffe,
Which nobody can deny.

"A very tall pig, with a very long nose,
Sends forth a proboscis quite down to his toes,
And he then by the name of an elephant goes,
Which nobody can deny.

"An ape with a pliable tongue and big brain,
When the gift of the gab he had managed to gain,
As a lord of creation established his reign,
Which nobody can deny."

EXPERIMENTS ON SOME OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES INFLUENCING CUTANEOUS ABSORPTION. Waller's researches on cutaneous absorption lead to results which appear to us important with regard to practical medicine. The subjects of the experiments were guinea-pigs and albino rats. When the leg of a half-grown guinea pig was immersed in a mixture of equal parts of chloroform and tincture of aconite, the part was after fifteen minutes insensible, and the symptoms of poisoning by aconite soon followed—viz., nausea, efforts at vomiting, coldness of surface, weak circulation, laborious respiration, slight convulsive symptoms, and death. The immersion in simple tincture of aconite without chloroform did not cause any of the symptoms of poisoning. If, however, the sciatic nerve had never been previously divided, then the immersion of the leg in the simple tincture of aconite was sufficient to poison the animal, evidently through the distension of the capillaries and the more rapid flow of blood caused by the division of the nerve. A ligature placed round the limb before the first symptoms of poisoning had appeared prevented the toxic influence on the system, but it rarely did so after the appearance of the earliest symptoms. In albino rats, the immersion of the leg in a solution of atropia in chloroform caused dilatation of the pupils already after two minutes and a half in young animals, after five minutes or later in old animals. If turpentine were substituted for chloroform, the dilatation of the pupils did not occur while the leg remained immersed in the fluid, but appeared immediately after the removal of the limb. The substitution of alcohol for chloroform as a solvent causes great retardation of absorption. An immersion of twenty to thirty minutes produced only very slight effects. Still more slow is the absorption when the atropia is dissolved in water with a slight addition of acetic acid, or when the watery extract of belladonna is rubbed over the leg. The immersion of the foot of a young rat in a solution of morphia in chloroform caused after about five minutes somnolency and great dilatation of pupils, which latter phenomena certainly must appear very remarkable when we consider the effect of morphia, given in the usual way, on the pupil. Three minutes immersion in a solution of strychnia in chloroform produced dilatation of the pupil, and after five minutes the well-known symptoms of strychnia-poisoning manifested themselves. No effect was obtained when a solution of strychnia in alcohol was employed. These experiments clearly show how important is the choice of the menstruum in the endermic application of some medicinal substances. (*Proceedings of Royal Society*, vol. x.)

M. JOBERT. "To-day I visited the wards of Jobert de Lamballe at Hotel Dieu. He is a very stern, rough man, but withal very attentive to strangers. Although courting no attention I was surprised by his noticing me and directing my attention to several minutiae. His apparatus for fractured thigh is simply a trough made of wire padded with cotton, reaching from the tuberosity of the ischium to the sole of the foot, in which the limb is laid with but very little if any extension. The limb is almost entirely free from bandaging, and lies in this trough splint entirely free from covering. His practice of cauterising the cervix uteri with red-hot iron for almost every affection, seemingly acting upon the injunction to purge as by fire, is so well known to the profession that it requires no notice here. I saw a very interesting case in his wards of a young woman with an enormous aneurism by anastomosis of one half of the lower lip and side of the cheek, and also of one side of the tongue. For some reason or other this affection had been allowed to remain ever since birth, and it had now caused great deformity of the lower jaw and absorption of the alveolar process." (Dr. Smith in *Amer. Med. Times*.)

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Royal Free, 2 P.M.—Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.
TUESDAY.... Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.
WEDNESDAY... St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.
THURSDAY..... St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—London, 1:30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.
FRIDAY..... Westminster Ophthalmic, 1:30 P.M.
SATURDAY..... St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1:30 P.M.—King's College, 1:30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY. Medical, 8:30 P.M.
THURSDAY. Junior Medical (Guy's Hospital), 8 P.M.

POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—OCTOBER 12, 1861.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.	Deaths.
During week.....	{ Boys.. 865	1683
	{ Girls.. 818	1113
Average of corresponding weeks 1861-60	1611	1035

Barometer:
Highest (Sun.) 30.021; lowest (Fri.) 29.346; mean 29.753.
Thermometer:
Highest in sun—extremes (Tu.) 115 degs.; (Sun.) 62.8 degs.
In shade—highest (Tu.) 75.6 degrees; lowest (Th.) 45.0 degs.
Mean—58.3 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs. +6.4 degs.
Range—during week, 29.7 degrees; mean daily, 17.5 degrees.
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 93.
Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.55.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

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

MARS.—Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, 14, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.

ESSENCE OF MILK.—In a review of Dr. Lankester's lectures on "Food," you have doubtless observed in the lecture on *Animal Food* in the chapter on "Milk," that the lecturer supports an argument in favour of the employment of vegetable substances, in combination with cow's milk, as the best food for hand-reared children. He also gives some consideration to the question of "essences" in milk, saying as much in favour of the theory as it is possible to say upon such a subtle subject; which, of course, must remain a question. Are we therefore justified in denying the existence of such essences? I am, etc., INQUIRER.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. GRAILY HEWITT; Mr. J. H. HEMMING; Mr. V. JACKSON; Mr. WILLIAM COPNEY; Mr. RAMSDEN; Mr. F. D. FLETCHER; Dr. MUNROE; Mr. T. MACAULAY; Mr. H. J. MACY; Mr. W. F. CLEVELAND; Dr. JAMES RUSSELL; Dr. W. NEWMAN; Mr. W. H. MANIFOLD; Dr. J. D. HEATON; Dr. W. BUDD; Mr. T. POPE; Mr. T. FLOWMAN; Mr. A. SQUIRE; A TWENTY YEARS MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION; L.K. and Q.C.P.I.; Mr. E. LISTER; Mr. G. GREAVES; Mr. T. M. STONE; and Mr. FOSTER.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. A Practical Treatise on the Use of the Ophthalmoscope, being the Jacksonian Prize Essay for 1859. By J. W. HULKE. London: 1861.
2. A Practical Treatise on Inflammation of the Uterus. By James H. BENNET, M.D. Fourth Edition. London: 1861.
3. A Manual of the Diseases of India. By W. J. MOORE, L.R.C.P. London: 1861.