

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

1. *Lunacy Laws and New Lunacy System in the Department of the Seine.*—2. "*Bureau Central d'Examen.*"

Paris, Monday, September 27th.

1. *The Peculiarities of the Lunacy Laws in France and the New Lunacy System of the Department of the Seine* at present engage a large share of public attention. Having had the advantage, last week, of visiting the new institutions with Sir James Coxe, one of the Medical Commissioners in Lunacy of Scotland, many points of great interest came under my notice in a very impressive manner. I now propose briefly to indicate some of them to the readers of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL. Great changes are being inaugurated, which cannot fail greatly to influence the medical, moral, and legal treatment of the insane in all countries. Although, in a short letter, I cannot enter into the subject with that completeness which its importance demands, I may be able usefully to direct attention to some salient points in such a way as to enable inquirers more easily to investigate for themselves the branches of the subject in which they may be individually most interested.

British physicians, philanthropists, and jurists would do well to watch attentively the movement now going on in the Department of the Seine—that is to say, in Paris and its vicinity—in relation to mental alienation, in its therapeutical, hygienical, financial, and judicial aspects. A magnificent system of asylums, and a new system of clinical instruction in lunacy, are at present being inaugurated, and are already, indeed, to a certain extent, on their trial at the bar of public and professional opinion.

In connexion with the new organisation referred to, grave questions are now under discussion touching reforms in the lunacy laws of France, particularly in relation to the right of *habeas corpus* and the personal liberty of alleged lunatics. These questions have of late been warmly discussed by that section of the opposition to which the name of "*irreconcilable*" attaches, and which now uses a freedom of utterance long undared, and not always tempered with wisdom and truth. The political and social discussions to which I refer, although they touch the confines of the practice of medicine, do not come within its domain. I notice them, therefore, only to introduce a statement explanatory of the exact position in which medical men stand to one of the most denounced features of the existing lunacy law—the law of 1838.

In the Department of the Seine, the Prefect of Police can, without one word of warning, and on his own individual warrant, order the arrest and detention of any person whom he alleges to be insane. Farther detention does not (as in non-police cases) require a medical certificate; and the alleged lunatic may remain in custody for a month without the authorities having a medical opinion on his mental state. Under the new lunacy system of the Seine, however, this defect of the law is remedied. A medical certificate is given within twenty-four hours, by Dr. Magnan or by Dr. Bouchereau, physicians to the Bureau Central d'Examen, in the Rue Ferrus, within the grounds of, but quite distinct from, the Asile Sainte-Anne. Through this office—which is a hospital of observation capable of receiving fifty cases—all lunatics of the department have now to pass.

The chief, but not the only objections to the present mode of arrest and detention, is the summary power with which the Prefect of Police is invested, there being no obligatory medical certificate required in police cases. The system cannot be defended; but I do not believe that it has been much, if at all, abused in the way which writers in the *Réveil*, *Rappel*, and such-like papers, are now asserting. Dr. Bouchard, writing in the *Gazette Hebdomadaire de Médecine et de Chirurgie*, expressed himself, nearly a year ago, exactly in accordance with the now prevailing opinion of medical men and others of dispassionate minds. The paper to which I refer appeared on October 23rd, 1868, and is entitled, "*La Question des Aliénés et la Loi de 1838.*" The particular sentence alluded to is to the following effect:—"Je puis dire que les hommes qui connaissent le fond des choses n'ont pas pu entendre sans un sourire des écrivains sérieux se demander si nous avions encore des lettres de cachet pour lesquelles les médecins seraient les distributeurs de blanc-seigns."

It is important to bear in mind that the arbitrary law which I have described applies only to the Department of the Seine, and is specially intended to ensure public tranquillity in Paris, where personal attacks on those in high authority have been often the deeds of maniacs and persons suffering from delusions.

2. *The Bureau Central d'Examen.*—This institution is the greatest novelty, and in reality the only strictly new idea, in the new lunacy organisation of the Seine. Through this office all the insane of the department must pass—those confined by the authorities or by relatives on medical certificates, as well as those sent direct on police warrants, without medical certificates. The movement of patients through this office is, therefore, enormous, seeing that the insane population of the Department of the Seine is about eight thousand. It sometimes happens that, through an error in diagnosis, patients delirious from pneumonia, or typhoid fever, or transient alcoholic excitement, are sent to the Bureau Central. These cases are allowed to remain under treatment at the Bureau, but are not entered as insane persons. Unless sent in by the police, they can be dismissed by the physicians of the Bureau; but, if police committals, the state of the case can only be represented to the Prefect. Last Saturday, when I was at the Bureau, a case sent by the police was found to be typhoid fever. On a previous visit, a person, after twenty-four hours' alcoholic excitement, was set free. Clinical lectures have been given in the summer sessions of 1868 and 1869 at the Bureau Central, and a third course will begin there in March next. In 1868, the lectures were attended by from five to twelve students; and in 1869 the attendance varied from a minimum of twelve to a maximum of thirty. Some of Dr. Magnan's lectures were reported in the *Gazette des Hôpitaux* for July, August, and September of the current year. They contain some original and exceedingly valuable researches into the nature of the different forms of cerebral disorder and disease arising from the use of different alcoholic stimulants and absinth. Dr. Magnan has elucidated his subject by experiments on the lower animals, as well as by clinical cases.

The plan of asylums for the Seine embraces a project of building eight or nine in addition to the three magnificent asylums already opened—viz., Sainte-Anne, Ville-Evrard, and Vacluse. I very much question whether this plan will be completed on the present costly scale. The three asylums already constructed (affording accommodations for 1,800) have cost the department, for ground, buildings, and furniture, the enormous sum of twenty-three million francs; and the expenditure is not yet completed at Vacluse. Till the nine asylums are built, however, the proposed classification of the insane cannot be fully carried out on the plan proposed. Thousands of the Seine lunatics, moreover, are at present sent to provincial asylums, there being a great deficiency of accommodation for the lunatics of the department within the department.

The general plan of classification is to send the feeble, chronic, and "*wet*" (*gâteux* and *gâteuses*) to the Bicêtre and Salpêtrière; the acute and curable, to Sainte-Anne; and the subacute, to Ville-Evrard and Vacluse. Drs. Magnan and Bouchereau make the diagnoses, and send the patients where they please. Some accidental peculiarity may determine them to send a case to one or other of the asylums, irrespective of the general rule now stated. Moreover, with a view to fill the new asylums as quickly as possible, the classification is necessarily, in the meantime, largely violated. Thus, for example, we see at the three new asylums chronic cases of general paralysis and dementia, as well as cases of acute alcoholic insanity.

In a subsequent letter, I propose to give a short account of what is most noteworthy at Sainte-Anne, Ville-Evrard, and Vacluse.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE first meeting of the above Branch, during the present Session, will be held at the Midland Institute, Birmingham, on Thursday, October 14th, at 3 P.M.

T. H. BARTLEET, *Honorary Secretary.*
Birmingham, September 26th, 1869.

SHROPSHIRE SCIENTIFIC BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of the above Branch will be held in the Museum of the Natural History and Antiquarian Society, Shrewsbury, on Wednesday, October 20th, at 2 P.M. President for 1868-9, Samuel Wood, F.S.A.; President-elect for 1869-70, Dr. Oakley.

Gentlemen intending to read papers or report cases, are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary.

The dinner will take place at the Lion Hotel, at 4.30 for 5 exact time. Dr. Oakley in the Chair.

SAMUEL WOOD, F.R.C.S., *Honorary Secretary.*
Shrewsbury, October 6th, 1869.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Globe Hotel, Cockermouth, on Wednesday, October 13th, at 12.30 P.M.; M. W. TAYLOR, M.D., President, in the Chair.

Gentlemen intending to read papers or cases are requested to give notice to the Honorary Secretary.

HENRY BARNES, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

Carlisle, September 22nd, 1869.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Clarence Hotel, Bridgwater, on Thursday, October 21st, at 5 P.M.; H. J. ALFORD, M.B., President, in the Chair.

Gentlemen intending to be present at the dinner, or to read papers after, are requested to give notice to the Honorary Secretary.

W. M. KELLY, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

Taunton, September 22nd, 1869.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE first meeting of the Session of the above Branch will be held at York House, Bath, on Thursday evening, October 28th, at 7 P.M.; C. H. COLLINS, Esq., President.

R. S. FOWLER, } *Honorary Secretaries.*
CHARLES STEELE, }

CORRESPONDENCE.

EXAMINERSHIPS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

SIR,—Your editorial remarks on the Examiners in Medicine at the University of Aberdeen are well timed.

An ordinance of the Universities Commissioners decreed that three persons should be appointed annually to that office, not triennially, as you observe in your article. Hence it may be inferred that these Commissioners, who devoted no slight expenditure of time to the consideration of University questions, had a meaning in confining the Medical Examinership to one year only, while in the Arts they extended it to three. That meaning, I think, you give expression to, when you say that the same Examiners should not be appointed again and again, thus monopolising appointments which should be as much as possible distributed among distinguished graduates of some years' standing.

The re-election of men, year after year, is to make a dead letter of the ordinance; that re-appointments should be made, the ordinance does indeed allow, but its spirit is opposed to a life appointment, which the present system virtually is.

The office of Medical Examiner, apart from Assistant Professorships, is the only link to academic life which the medical *alumni* of Aberdeen University can have to their *alma mater*. It ought to be looked upon in the light of a fellowship, to be enjoyed for a few years, and then resigned in favour of others who are equally fitted for the post. The graduates in the North of Scotland would then have a valuable stimulus to keep up their scientific knowledge, in the hope that once more they could acquire an official connection with the old academic halls. Thus could the governing power of the University strengthen the slight bonds which at present unite them with their graduates, and have the satisfaction of feeling that their judicious administration of this patronage tended to elevate the medical profession in the North. As it is, although the medical classes are loudly advertised, the Examinerships in Medicine are quietly adjusted without much reference to the external world.

I am, etc.,

A NORTH-COUNTRY PRACTITIONER.

Aberdeenshire, October 9th, 1869.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S GRIEVANCES.

SIR,—The suggestion contained in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of September 25th, that the junior officers of the London hospitals and medical schools should receive a fair remuneration for their valuable services, would, if carried out, effect a great improvement in the education afforded at the hospital to which I belong. It would involve the appointment of competent and responsible teachers in subjects at present much neglected; it would do away with the system of charging extra fees; and it would give to the unpaid demonstrators who devote so much talent and energy to the improvement of the school, the pecuniary reward they richly deserve. The new branches of instruc-

tion necessitated by the advance of medicine within the last twenty or thirty years have, at St. Bartholomew's, been one by one intrusted to demonstrators, who, in some instances, have been authorised to charge extra fees, and in others are expected to give their services gratuitously: in the one case the hardship falls on the student, in the other on the teacher. But what makes me now especially anxious to draw attention to this subject is, that certain of the gentlemen charged with important demonstrations at our school propose to forego their fees, hoping by their generosity to improve the advantages of the school, and to do their share towards allaying the loudly expressed discontent of the students. As one of these latter, I thank them for their disinterestedness, and should be glad to see all the extra fees abolished; but I must protest against these gentlemen being losers by our gain. The instruction they afford is the result of several years of intelligent and laborious study, and ought, in common justice, to be well paid, not by extra levies on the students, but out of the common fund, which is quite rich enough to pay handsomely every one of our teachers.

I am, etc.,

A PRESENT PUPIL.

THE POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE

OF

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

THE IRISH DISPENSARY SYSTEM.

As our Dispensary system is viewed with much interest in England, it may be useful to note a few of its peculiarities. The Medical Charities Act, 14 and 15 Vic., cap. 68, placed all the dispensaries under the Poor Law Commissioners, a Medical Commissioner, and four Medical Inspectors being added to the Staff; but, by an Act passed last year, the distinction between medical and ordinary Poor-law inspectors was removed. The Commissioners, framed regulations for the medical officers, and in each case sanction their election by the Committee if they possess the medical and surgical qualification, and have attained the age of 23. The number of medical officers is 795 for 718 districts, as in the cities there are several officers in the one district, and there are there also apothecaries resident in the dispensaries. In rural districts, the dispensary usually consists of two rooms, in one of which the patients wait, and in the other they are attended to, and their medicines compounded by the medical officer. The guardians of each union contract with druggists for the medicines and instruments of the dispensaries; but much more reliable articles would be procured if the Commissioners would insist on their being all examined by an analytical chemist. 584,604 of the cases attended by all the medical officers in Ireland last year were seen at the dispensaries, and 183,155 at the patients' homes. The ticket requiring a visit may be sent to the medical officer at any hour; but he is only bound to attend at the dispensary for two hours, on two or three days weekly. The members of the Committee (usually numbering 21) and the relieving officers can issue tickets; and, if one be presented by a person evidently able to pay for attendance, the medical officer must obey it. At the next meeting of Committee he may have such a ticket cancelled; but as the meeting may not occur for a month, his attendance may have been completed. Only 661 tickets were cancelled last year. The forms for recording the patients' cases, heretofore much complicated, were last years simplified. The extent of duty required from a medical officer will be best estimated from the following averages: Area of district, 28,384 acres; population, 8,099; number of dispensary cases, 737; visiting cases, 231. The average salary is £93 12s., and the additional payment for vaccination and for registration (for in almost every case the medical officer is the district registrar of deaths, etc.), amounts to about £20. An Act just passed allows superannuation after 20 years' service, or when the age of 60 is attained. The advice of the Medical Commission had much to do with the granting of this just measure. In 125 districts, midwives assist the medical officers. The Poor-law Commission also controls the sanitary administration of the rural districts; while the town population of Ireland have no central authority whatever in sanitary matters, which are hence very badly organised. On the whole, it may be said that our Dispensary system works admirably, and is worthy of imitation in England. As questions of party and religion influence committees more than the merits of candidates, election by competitive examination is very desirable.

DONATION.—Mr. G. F. Muntz, of Umberslade Hall, has just given £500 towards the Working Men's Fund, now being raised for the enlargement of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, September 30th, 1869.

Allen, Matthew Septimus, Dudley
Davies, Henry Naunton, Cymer, Pontypridd
McEvoy, Francis, Eastcote, Pinner
Yates, Walter Peel, Nottingham

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their first professional examination.

Ray, William Joseph Richard, Westminster Hospital
Walford, Edward, St. George's Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are declared:—

ABERDEEN, CITY PARISH OF—A District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator.

ARDEE UNION, co. Louth—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Collon Dispensary District: election, 11th Oct.

CAHERCIVEEN UNION, co. Kerry—Medical Officer for the Derrynane Dispensary District: applications, 18th; election, 20th.

GLOUCESTER INFIRMARY—Assistant-Physician: election, 14th.

HULL GENERAL INFIRMARY—Resident House-Surgeon: applications, 18th October.

KIDDERMINSTER INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon and Secretary: applications, 12th Oct.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE—Lecturer on Materia Medica and Therapeutics; Demonstrator of Anatomy.

MONAGHAN UNION—Medical Officer for the Scotstown Dispensary District: applications, 13th; election, 16th.

MONAGHAN UNION—Medical Officer for the Glasslough Dispensary District: applications, 18th; election, 21st.

ROSCREA UNION, co. Tipperary—Medical Officer for the Workhouse: election, 14th Oct.; Medical Officer for the Ballybritt Division of the Roscrea Dispensary District: date of election not yet fixed.

ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, City Road—Physician: applications, 11th Oct.; election, 18th Nov.

SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL, Brighton—House-Surgeon: applications, 3rd November; election, 24th November.

SWANSEA INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon: applications, 24th Nov.; election, 1st Dec.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, London—Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.

WESTMORELAND LOCK HOSPITAL, Dublin—Resident Apothecary: applications, 22nd; election, 23rd.

WIGAN UNION, Lancashire—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Wigan District and the Workhouse: applications, 21st Oct.

BIRTHS.

BRUMWELL.—On September 18th, at Mossley, near Manchester, the wife of *G. M. Brumwell, M.D., of a daughter.

MASSER.—On September 30th, at Foleshill, the wife of *Herbert C. P. Masser, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

MILLER.—On October 3rd, at Glasgow, the wife of *Hugh Miller, M.D., of a son.

STEPHEN.—On September 28th, at 44, Victoria Road, South Kensington, the wife of *Andrew Stephen, M.D., of a son.

WEBER.—On September 24th, at Grosvenor Street, the wife of *Hermann Weber, M.D., of a daughter.

DEATHS.

***COLBORNE**, William H., M.D., at Chippenham, aged 47, on September 27th.

***GEERE**, R., Esq., Surgeon, at Edenbridge, Kent, on September 23rd.

***FLINT**, Richard, Esq., Surgeon, at Stockport, aged 74, on October 6th.

HEWITT, Frederick H., M.D., of Chapel Street, Bedford Square, at Clapham, aged 47, on September 28th.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.—The Professor of Anatomy gives notice that the Lectures on Practical Anatomy will commence on Monday, October 11th, in the Old Anatomical Schools, at 1 P.M., and be continued daily. The course of Lectures on Anatomy and Physiology will commence on Tuesday, October 19th, at 1 P.M., in the New Museums, and be continued on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. This course is intended for Students of Natural Science as well as for Medical Students. Members of the University not requiring certificates, are at liberty to attend without fee.

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. MOORE OF LANCASTER.—On Friday evening, 1st October, the opening lecture of the Lancaster science classes for the session 1869-70, was delivered by Dr. Moore, F.L.S., on the Scientific Principles involved in the Illusions Practised by Modern Magicians. At the close of the lecture, a handsome and valuable timepiece, with suitable inscription, was presented by the students to Dr. Moore, in appreciation of the services which he had rendered to the science classes as Secretary to the Committee, and the assistance which he had afforded to the students.

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.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 P.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.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

WEDNESDAY.—Royal Microscopical Society, 8 P.M. Lieutenant-Colonel Woodward, U.S. Army, "On Immersion Objectives and Robert's Test-Plate"; Mr. William Carruthers, F.L.S., "The Plants of the Coal Measures."—Hunterian Society, 7.30 P.M., Council Meeting, 8 P.M., Mr. Hutchinson, "On some of the Principal Diatheses and their Mutual Relations."

FRIDAY.—Western Medical and Surgical Society of London, 8 P.M.

SATURDAY.—Association of 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.

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

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

JOURNALS WANTED.—The numbers of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for August 1st, August 15th, and December 12th, 1868, are required to complete a set. Full price will be given to any gentleman forwarding them to the office of the JOURNAL, 37, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.

It was noticed some time since that the initials of Fellows of the Royal Colonial Society and of the Royal College of Surgeons were identical; and that abuses would certainly and frequently result, unless some alteration was made in the title of the former. On the representation of the Council of the College of Surgeons, Government has been pleased to signify that the Royal Colonial Society shall henceforth be entitled the Royal Colonial and Indian Society.

THE GALIGNANI HOSPITAL IN PARIS.

The following additional particulars as to the Galignani Hospital at Paris, from the pen of Dr. Shrimpton, may be of interest.

This establishment—twenty beds for the English poor in Paris—built by the Messrs. Galignani, on a piece of ground purchased by these gentlemen in the name of the British Ambassador, was opened in October 1865, and has, up to this date, received 351 patients.

It was first intended that it should be a retreat for the aged and infirm, as well as a hospital for the sick; but the whole building is now reserved for the latter purpose; and, as a rule, none but serious cases are admitted, on account of the small number of beds.

The building, erected on a dry sandy soil, is divided into two parts—one for men, the other for women—with a separate entrance and a private garden for each. The exposures are S.E. and N.N.W. The Hospital has a garden in front.

The kitchen, offices, *calorifere*, bath-rooms and washing department, are on the underground-floor. The ground-floor is thus raised, and is divided into two wards, with an entrance-passage and stair-case, which serves as an air-shaft on each side. The Lady Superior's room is between them. Each ward, 5796 cubic feet, contains six beds, has four large windows, two opposite each other. The door, with its lower panels pierced by a number of holes, is opposite an open fire-place. For the ventilation, there are eight oval openings (1 foot by 8½ inches), two over each window, closed by plates of largely perforated zinc. Two rooms for infectious cases on the floor above contain two beds each, and have an opening near the ceiling (4 feet 10 inches by 12½ inches), closed by plates of perforated zinc, an open fire-place, and a large window, S.E. aspect. The remainder of the building is divided into different compartments for private rooms—the chapel, dispensary, linen-rooms, etc.

The Physician and Lady Superior give their services gratuitously.

The last two years taken conjointly will present a fair average view of the expenditure and mortality.

1867.—Number of patients, 99; number of days in hospital, 2575; household expenses for each patient *per diem*, 1.46 francs (1s. 3d.); mortality, 1 in 24.4.

1868.—Number of patients, 94; number of days in hospital, 4216; household expenses for each patient *per diem*, 2.26 francs (1s. 11d.); mortality, 1 in 11.75 (three patients died on entering).

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.

THE SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES REPRESENTATION.

SIR,—I have seen in one of the newspapers of this week, a paragraph to the effect that, at a meeting of the "Scottish Universities Union," held at the house of Dr. Prosser James, a long discussion ensued, which resulted in the resolutions to invite Mr. John Stuart Mill to become a candidate for the representation of the Aberdeen and Glasgow Universities, and Dr. Prosser James for the sister Universities, should a vacancy occur. As I have always taken, and continue to take, a great interest in the Scotch Universities, I shall feel obliged if you will kindly inform me what are the objects of the "Union" at a meeting of which the above resolutions were passed, and by whom it was formed. I have never heard of it before.

London, October 1869.

I am, etc., M.D.

* * We have no knowledge whatever of the Scottish Universities Union. Dr. James will, no doubt, be able to furnish full particulars.

ARGUS.—We agree with you, that the practice of medical men reporting in the public papers as to the health of their notable patients, is one not to be encouraged.

STUDENTS' BOOKS.—We can assure our correspondent that we think highly of the ability displayed in his work; but we do not regard it as one which can be recommended to students. Our critique was written solely for the guidance of the latter. We do not think the matter one in which personal friendship ought to be allowed the slightest influence.

AN EXTRAORDINARY SOPORIFIC.—Dr. Grussebach, of Stockholm, claims to have discovered a liquid which will send to sleep indefinitely. The body becomes quite brittle, and may be broken to pieces by touching, etc. After a time, he sprinkles some "essence" over, and the sleep departs. The doctor wants the next malefactor condemned to be hung, for him to experiment on.

MAKING GAS FROM SEWAGE.—Sir John Thwaites, at a meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, alluded to a paragraph which had appeared in a newspaper to the effect that gas was being manufactured in India from sewage, and leading to the inference that the same results might be obtained from metropolitan sewage. The writer appeared to have ignored the fact that Indian sewage consisted principally of solid matter, whilst London sewage contained 94 or 95 per cent. of fluid matter, which would practically render the cost of extraction too heavy to be of any practical utility. At the same time, on the part of the board, he wished to state that they would give every facility to persons who wished to experiment with a view of arriving at any results not hitherto attained.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest:—The Wiltshire County Mirror, Sept. 29th; The New York Medical Gazette, Sept. 18th; The Parochial Critic, Sept. 29th; The New York Medical Record, Sept. 18th; The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Sept. 16th; The Aberdeen Free Press, Sept. 28th; The Madras Mail, July 28th; The Indian Medical Gazette, August 23rd; The Birmingham Daily Gazette, Sept. 29th; The Barnsley Times, Oct. 2nd; The British and Foreign Mechanic, Oct. 2nd; The Stratford Express, Oct. 2nd; The Alloa Journal, Oct. 2nd; The Bristol Daily Post, Oct. 5th.

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

Mr. Heckford, London; Dr. Inglis, London; Mr. O. Smith, London; Dr. C. P. Ames, New Orleans; Dr. Henry Kennedy, Dublin; Mr. Tomlinson, London; Messrs. R. Ellis and Son, Ruthin; Dr. A. J. Branson, Doncaster; Dr. Medwin, Blackheath; Mr. A. Sargeant, London; Mr. J. Warnock, Birmingham; Dr. C. Gibson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. W. M. Harmer, Hawkhurst; Mr. F. Waterhouse, Pontypidd; Mr. R. Wilson, London; Mr. H. Denne, Birmingham; Dr. O. B. Shore, Derby; Dr. Blanc, London; Dr. J. J. Phillips, London; The Assistant Secretary of the Royal Microscopical Society of London; A Careful Reader; The Secretary of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow; Dr. Paul, London; Dr. Rutherford, London; Mr. Milnes Moore, London; Dr. Matthews Duncan, Edinburgh; Mr. Masser, Foleshill; and Mr. T. Massey, Stockport.

LETTERS, ETC. (with enclosures) from:—

Mr. Bradley, Manchester; Mr. S. Watson, London; The Honorary Secretaries of the Bath and Bristol Branch; Dr. Percy Leslie, Birmingham; Eleanor, Birmingham; Dr. Cheadle, London; Dr. Brumwell, Mossley; Dr. Philpots, Edinburgh; Mr. J. Blackburn, Barnsley; Dr. Davidson, Liverpool; Mr. W. F. Morgan, Bristol; Dr. W. Murray, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. Thos. B. Bott, Bury; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; The Registrar-General of Ireland; The Registrar-General of England; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Dr. Lomas, London; Dr. Treutler, Kew; Dr. Elliot, Carlisle; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. B. W. Richardson, London; Mr. H. Hemsted, Whitechurch; Dr. G. Reid, Manchester; Dr. Moore, Lancaster; Mr. H. Lowndes, Liverpool; Dr. F. J. Brown, Rochester; Dr. Lyon Playfair, M.P., London; Dr. Kelly, London; Dr. Silver, London; Mr. Seaton, Leeds; Mr. A. Duncan, Glasgow; Dr. Mapother, Dublin; Dr. W. H. Suffield, Dublin; Mr. W. P. Swain, Devonport; Mr. Samuel Wood, Shrewsbury.

Results of Meteorological Observations, for the week ending Saturday, October 2nd, 1869.

NAMES OF STATIONS AND OBSERVERS.	BAROMETER. Reduced to 32 deg. F. & mean sea lev.		MEAN TEMPERA- TURE.			Mean degree of Humidity (sat. -100)	SELF-REGISTERING THERMOMETERS.								Mean amount of Clouds (0-10).	Mean amount of Ozone (0-10).	WIND.										RAIN.	
	Mean.	Range.	Of Air in Shade.	Of Evaporation.	Of Dew-point.		Maximum.	Minimum.	Range.	Mean of all Maxima.	Mean of all Minima.	Black bulb Maxim. in Sun.	Minimum ex- posed on grass.	Number of days it blew in certain directions.									Mean Force 0-12.	Number of days it fell.	Amount in inches.			
														N.			N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.				N.W.	Calm, etc.	
BATH..... Dr. Barter, F.M.S.	29.720	0.553	58.4	55.8	53.4	84	69.5	44.0	25.5	65.8	52.6	124.5	..	7.3	5	..	..	..	2	1.7	1	1.3	..	1	4.3	6	2.11
BOURNEMOUTH..... Dr. Compton, F.M.S.	29.779	0.570	58.1	55.7	53.5	85	65.2	47.4	17.8	62.7	54.1	119.0	..	5.0	4.3	..	..	0.3	1.3	1.7	1.7	1	..	1	2.4	6	1.77
DOVER..... Dr. Parsons.	29.774	0.490	59.8	56.3	53.2	79	71.5	39.9	31.6	66.8	46.4	..	..	4.2	..	..	..	..	2	0.7	2.7	1.7	..	0.3	3.2	3	0.69
DUBLIN..... Dr. J. W. Moore.	29.624	0.651	56.2	54.0	51.9	86	62.0	49.2	12.8	60.1	52.7	..	43.1	5.9	..	..	0.6	1.3	1.4	0.7	1.2	1.5	..	0.3	2	6	1.93
KEW..... Dr. Treutler, F.L.S., etc.	29.778	0.426	58.8	56.2	53.9	83	73.6	46.2	27.4	65.5	52.7	122.6	*	5.3	5	..	..	..	1.3	1.3	2.7	0.3	..	0.3	2.6	3	0.52
LLANDUDNO..... Drs. Nicol and Dalton.	29.726	0.410	57.6	55.2	53.0	85	69.3	50.0	19.3	64.6	54.1	..	..	6.3	..	..	..	1.3	0.3	1.3	1.7	2.3	..	1.5	4	1.35	
MALVERN..... Messrs. W. and J. Burrow.	29.724	0.512	56.8	54.3	52.0	84	69.0	45.8	23.2	65.4	51.4	127.0	38.5	7	4.6	..	..	..	1.7	1	3	1.3	..	3.2+	5	2.94	
SCARBOROUGH..... Dr. Fox, M.R.C.P.	29.751	0.338	55.0	53.0	51.1	87	66.8	46.3	20.5	62.2	51.1	122.7	39.5	5.6	6.1	..	..	..	0.3	2	1.3	1.7	0.3	1.3	3.5	3	0.20
SIDMOUTH..... Dr. Mackenzie, F.M.S.	29.744	0.612	57.7	56.0	54.5	89	65.5	44.5	21.0	62.8	52.5	..	..	4.7	7	..	..	..	1	3	1	2	..	1.4	6	1.52	
WORTHING..... W. J. Harris, Esq., M.R.C.S.E.	29.777	0.594	59.5	57.4	55.5	87	67.1	48.1	19.1	64.3	54.3	120.0	38.7	5.7	6.3	..	..	..	1.3	1	2.3	1.3	0.7	2.1	5	1.13	

* Instrument out of order.

+ Mean hourly velocity in miles.

REMARKS.—There has been a general decrease in atmospheric pressure during the week, and the range has also been rather less. Temperature has been very slightly higher than last week, while the degree of humidity has been somewhat higher. The range has been rather lower. The maximum of the week occurred at Kew and the minimum at Dover. Winds have ranged principally between the S.E. and W., and have been generally moderate in force. The amount of clouds has been on the whole greater. The rainfall has been considerably in excess of that of last week, the heaviest fall occurring at Malvern, where it amounted to nearly 3 inches. The earlier part of the week was marked by generally fine weather; but towards its end atmospheric disturbances, chiefly electric, occurred over a large extent of country, accompanied by heavy falls of rain. This was especially the case on the 29th ultimo, when thunderstorms occurred at the following times and places:—At Bath, at 5 a.m., vivid and incessant lightning to N.E. from 7 to 8 p.m., and to S. from 8.30 to 10.30 p.m.; at Dublin, distant thunder at 11 a.m.; at Malvern, heavy thunderstorm from 7 to 7.30 a.m., and again at 9 p.m.; at Worthing, lightning, but no thunder, was observed in the early morning, and again in the afternoon and evening; at Kew, constant and vivid lightning was seen to W. from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m.; at Bournemouth, a heavy thunderstorm from S.E. occurred at 4.30 p.m., and another at 7 p.m.,—the amount of rain for the day being 0.61 inch. On the 30th, rain fell at Bath to the amount of 0.836 inch; at Bournemouth, 0.59 inch in 75 minutes; at Worthing, 0.53 inch in 24 hours; at Dublin, 0.616 inch in 4 hours, 0.40 of which fell in 15 minutes, and a heavy thunderstorm with very vivid lightning occurred from 9.15 to 10.15 p.m.; at Malvern, thunder and lightning occurred in the afternoon, and "1.52 inch of rain was registered the next morning—more than has ever been registered in 24 hours in Malvern before." In Dublin, on the 1st of October, 0.630 was registered as the rainfall of 12 hours, and lightning was seen throughout the morning. At Dover, a thunderstorm occurred on the 2nd of October. A brilliant Aurora Borealis was seen at Malvern on the evening of the 29th ultimo; and also at Llandudno, where, however, it was not so brilliant. An Aurora Borealis was also seen at Dublin on the 29th, at 7 p.m. In Dublin 16 deaths have occurred from scarlatina and 6 from measles during the week. The general health continues fairly good.

Owing to faulty punctuation, the latter part of last week's "Remarks" was misprinted; it should read thus: "At Dover influenza is prevalent and several cases of typhoid fever have occurred.—In Dublin measles are epidemic and scarlatina", etc.

Kew, W., October 6th, 1869.

W. J. TREUTLER.