

money contributions, he, nevertheless, stands in a position of being even a much larger distributor of that charity which is reckoned as one amongst the greatest of Christian virtues.

## Association Intelligence.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BATH AND BRISTOL. [Ordinary.]	White Lion, Bristol.	Thurs., Nov. 28, 7 P.M.

### REPORT OF MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL:

*Held in Birmingham, on Tuesday, Nov. 5th.*

PRESENT:—Sir C. Hastings (in the Chair); Mr. Bartleet; Mr. Bottomley; Mr. Cartwright; Dr. Hatton; Dr. Stewart; Dr. A. T. H. Waters; Mr. Watkin Williams; and Dr. P. H. Williams.

The following resolutions were adopted:—

That the decision of the Committee appointed at the last annual meeting of the Association, *with the consent of both disputants*, to investigate certain charges of unprofessional conduct, brought by Mr. Wallis of Hartfield against Mr. Fleischmann of Tunbridge Wells, be approved and published in the JOURNAL; namely, "That Mr. Fleischmann having objected altogether to attend the meeting of the arbitrators (Mr. Bottomley, Dr. Westall, and Mr. Cordy Burrows), they proceeded to hear the case in his absence; and, after hearing the statement of Mr. Wallis, and the correspondence between Mr. Wallis and Mr. Fleischmann relative to the matter in dispute, together with certain letters and copies of letters from Mr. Fleischmann, the Earl Delaware, and the Hon. and Rev. R. Sackville West, came to the unanimous conclusion that Mr. Fleischmann's conduct, in the matter referred, had been unprofessional and unjustifiable." Dr. Williams having read a note from Mr. Fleischmann, containing his resignation of membership of the Association, it was resolved that Mr. Fleischmann's resignation be accepted.

That the next annual meeting of the Association be held in London, on the first Tuesday, and three following days, in August; and that this Committee learns with sincere pleasure from Dr. Stewart, that Dr. Walshe, Mr. Paget, and Dr. Sharpey, have consented to deliver the Addresses in Medicine, Surgery, and Physiology, respectively.

That Sir C. Hastings, Mr. Bottomley, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Bartleet, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Pemberton, be a subcommittee to consider the Report of the Evidence given before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Poor-Law Medical Relief; and that they prepare a memorial to be presented to the Select Committee after Parliament has re-assembled, such memorial to be laid before the Committee of Council at its next meeting.

That three members of this Committee (viz., Mr. Bartleet, Mr. Cartwright, and Mr. Williams) be appointed a Finance Committee; and that the General Secretary be desired to return to them, every quarter, the names of those who have *not paid their subscriptions* to the Association.

CHARLES HASTINGS,  
PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *Gen. Sec.*

Worcester, November 1861.

### SHROPSHIRE ETHICAL BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of the Shropshire Ethical Branch was held at the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury, on Tuesday, October 15th, at 1.30 P.M.; Dr. JUKES STYRAP, President, in the chair. Twenty-one members and two visitors were present.

Henry Fenton, Esq., the retiring president, having briefly addressed the meeting, resigned the chair to Dr. Styrap, who delivered an able address on the "Duties of Medical Practitioners to each other, to themselves, and to the public."

*Report of Council.* The Council of the Shropshire Ethical Branch of the British Medical Association in presenting their first report since the incorporation under the above title of "The Salopian Medico-Ethical Society" with the old Shropshire Branch, beg to congratulate the members on its increasing success and prosperity; and, at the same time, to express the great pleasure they have in meeting their professional brethren to celebrate the anniversary of the amalgamation. For, at such cheerful reunions, not only are old friendships strengthened, and new ones formed, but if there should perchance be any little asperities roughening the contact of one practitioner with another, an opportunity is afforded of proving that they are but superficial growths, easily removed by mutual explanation and concession; and thus it is to be hoped that the troubled waters in the stream of professional life, unimpeded by the undercurrents of party or personal strife, will eventually flow steadily and smoothly onward.

Ere they proceed to pass in review various important subjects which have engaged their attention during the past year, your Council would briefly refer to the objection which has been urged against the "code of etiquette" adopted by the Branch: viz., "that no laws, however stringent, will make a man honourable who is not innately inclined to be so." While admitting the general truth of the assertion, your Council venture to express their decided conviction that a good example exerts an almost equally powerful influence with that for evil—and, therefore, that the *morale* of the truly honourable members must eventually exercise a very important influence over those (should there be any such) who might be inclined to act otherwise; for however much the latter individuals may affect to despise the good opinion of the practitioners in their immediate localities, yet, knowing, as they now do, that unprofessional conduct will sooner or later be brought under the cognisance of the majority of their medical brethren, callous indeed to all the finer feelings of human nature must be his heart, who would calmly contemplate so unenviable a position in the medical world, as that which would be implied by general censure of so large a body of his brother practitioners.

Your Council, in adverting to the organisation and proceedings of the late Ethical Society—now incorporated with the old Shropshire Branch—would ill discharge their duty, if they omitted to express their unreserved and unanimous opinion that that society had been the means of effecting much positive good; for, independent of the powerful moral influence which, to the personal knowledge of your Council, it continually exercised, it compelled two individuals who, for several years, had been practising illegally, to qualify themselves in accordance with the laws; and, within the same year, constrained the Medical Council for England to cancel the registry of a notorious quack and medical herbalist, whose name (notwithstanding a cautionary letter to the Registrar) had been inadvertently admitted on the register—in consequence of which, the onus of proving that he was *not*, as sworn to in his declaration before a magistrate, in practice prior to the 1st of August, 1815,

was unfortunately thrown upon the Society. It would be uninteresting to the members to detail the various steps taken to trace his career from infancy upwards. Suffice it to remark, that after innumerable difficulties, a clue to his early life was obtained, carefully followed up, and the result of the Society's investigations may be thus briefly summarised: that instead of being, as declared upon oath, a medical practitioner at the Old Bailey, in the city of London, he was, at or soon after the time alluded to, and for several succeeding years, working in Birmingham as a silver chaser, subsequently, as a gas fitter, afterwards as an informer against stage coaches, etc., from which respectable calling he eventually retired, and, in June 1839, removed to a distant town, where he has since been engaged, first as a gas fitter, then as an itinerant preacher and blacking maker, at a later period as an agent for Dr. Coffin, and, finally, as a quack doctor on his own account; which latter has proved so lucrative a speculation, and engendered such modest assurance, as to have tempted him to venture on a step, to which your Council are not at present in a position to allude further than to state that they have taken measures to frustrate a most impudent and fraudulent design.

Such are a few of the benefits conferred on the profession by the late Ethical Society, and which your Council, as an act of simple justice, have great pleasure in thus publicly acknowledging.

With regard to the Medical Act—that for which, in the quaint language of an able Associate, “long days and nights we’ve strove as lovers only strive”—to which we have looked forward as the “passport to the haven of our hopes”—a haven where the knell of our grievances might be tolled, and the merry peals of professional liberty be rung—its defects have been so fully discussed in the medical periodicals, that further allusion to them is here unnecessary; in the opinion of your Council, however, it is much to be regretted that the committee appointed by the General Medical Council to report thereon, in June 1860, were not prepared, after a delay of twelve months, with an amended Bill at their late meeting. Should the consideration of the matter be deferred until the next annual meeting of the Council, there will, owing to the wonted pressure of public business in the “Commons” at that period of the session, be but little probability of an amended Bill receiving the sanction of the legislature until 1863, a delay to be deprecated equally on public as on professional grounds.

Your Council would now briefly but earnestly solicit attention to a matter of high import, affecting, as it does, not simply the physical, but the social and moral wellbeing of the youthful population; and one in which the profession may, through their influence in private families, effect much good: viz., that of the immoral quack advertisements which are suffered to appear in local and other newspapers, by means of which, pamphlets of a most disgusting nature (evidenced by those now before the meeting) are disseminated far and wide, and conduce to the contamination of the youth and purity of the country. Be it, therefore, the duty of every member not only personally to discountenance such polluting papers, but to induce his patients to withdraw their support, and thus practically protest against a flagrant violation of public health and decency; for if every respectable man were to refuse to take in newspapers which gave insertion to these scandals of the age, their proprietors would speedily exclude them; and, publicity being denied to their wares, the quacks themselves would soon disappear.

Another subject which claims your notice is the position and treatment of the Union medical officers. Though, probably, there is much truth in the assertion that the members of that important section of the medical community are themselves chiefly to blame for their present humiliating position, still that will not re-

lease us from our plain and simple duty “to aid a brother in distress.” Let us unite, therefore, with our oppressed brethren in urging their claims for relief upon the attention of the legislature; and joining hand and heart with them in denouncing the unjust encroachments made upon the rights of our common profession, compel the executive—by the powerful influence of a converging pressure from without—to yield to their demands for justice. In advocating their cause, however, we must not forget that “union is strength,” a truth which cannot be too forcibly impressed upon our minds; and that unanimity and concord among ourselves are absolutely essential to success; the want of which has not only enabled the Poor Law Board to so long disregard the efforts made to improve their position, but, at the same time, encouraged the public at large to undervalue our profession as a body.

Nevertheless, with unity of feeling and action in our ranks, your Council think that they may safely venture to predict with regard to our honourable, but ill-remunerated profession, that, in the language of the well-known song—“There’s a good time coming!”

In conclusion, your Council, with so pleasing a reminiscence of the past, confidently anticipate that the present meeting will be characterised by the same harmony and good feeling that so happily distinguished the festival of last year—a result which cannot fail to exercise an important local influence, and, at the same time, tend to cement still more strongly the existing bond of union amongst the members of the Ethical Branch.

The following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

*Vote of Thanks.* “That the cordial thanks of the meeting be given to the late President, Vice-Presidents, Council, Treasurer, and Honorary Secretary, for their valuable services during the past year.”

*Reports of Council and Treasurer.* “That the Reports of the Council and Treasurer for the past financial year, now submitted to the meeting—a copy of which latter was transmitted to each member on the 5th inst.—be approved and adopted.”

*Election of Officers.* “That Thomas Groom, Esq., be elected President; James Bratton, Esq., and S. B. Gwynn, Esq., Vice-Presidents; and the following gentlemen members of the Council for the ensuing year, in the place of those who retire by rotation: P. Cartwright, Esq., W. E. Baddeley, Esq., J. Hickman, Esq., J. R. Humphreys, Esq., J. H. Sutton, Esq., and T. Wetherhead, Esq.”

*Representation of Branch in General Council.* “That, in accordance with the 8th general law of the British Medical Association, the President, P. Cartwright, H. Fenton, and T. Groom, Esqs., be the Representatives of the Branch in the General Council, for the ensuing year.”

*New Members.* “That M. B. Evans, Esq., and J. W. Roe, Esq., of Ellesmere, and H. Y. Whytehead, M.D., of Shrewsbury, be elected members.”

*Quack Advertisements.* “That the President (Dr. Styrup), Dr. Fuller, and Mr. Groom, be deputed to wait upon, or otherwise communicate with the proprietors of the county newspapers, and to point out to them the immoral tendency of, and contaminating effect produced upon the youth and purity of the country by the disgusting quack pamphlets which are advertised, and disseminated far and wide through the medium of the press; an effect which the meeting—representing nearly a hundred medical practitioners in this and the adjoining county of Montgomery—venture to hope that the local and other papers will, for the future, assist in counteracting by the exclusion of such advertisements from their pages.”

*The President’s Address.* “That the thanks of the

meeting be given to the President for his able address, and that he be requested to publish it."

In consequence of a prolonged discussion on an alleged breach of professional practice (subsequently referred to the Council) preferred by two practitioners of Ellesmere against a neighbouring "consultant," the reading of several papers was unavoidably postponed.

*The Dinner.* At half-past three, thirty gentlemen sat down to an excellent dinner under the presidency of Dr. Styrup, the vice-chair being filled by T. Groom, Esq., President-elect. The pleasures of the evening were greatly enhanced by the strains of a select band of musicians from Birmingham, whose vocal and instrumental performances were listened to with enrapt attention, and elicited frequent *encores*. As well remarked by an old Associate of twenty-seven years standing, a more harmonious and pleasant professional reunion was never known in Shropshire.

## Reports of Societies.

### MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

MONDAY, NOV. 11TH, 1861.

WILLIAM COULSON, Esq., President, in the Chair.

#### CLINICAL DISCUSSION.

*Extroversion of the Bladder.* Mr. EDMUNDS exhibited a child which was the subject of this malformation. He said that such cases had been pronounced incurable; but he could not help thinking that something might be done. He thought that it would be even justifiable to subject the child to a certain amount of risk, and perform a plastic operation. The malformation was, he believed, one of fissure, and not of absolute deficiency. He would propose to pare the edges of the fissure, and unite them, either by one or by several operations, and bring the pelvis together.

*Fibrous Tumour of the Uterus.* Mr. BAKER BROWN related the case of a woman aged 40, on whom he had performed his new operation of perforating fibrous tumour of the uterus, and allowing it to disintegrate. The operation was followed by severe symptoms of peritonitis, etc. At last, a large uterine hæmatocele formed, reaching as high as the umbilicus. He punctured it in the linea semilunaris on the right side, and discharged a large amount of bloody purulent matter. As it reaccumulated, he, after some days, left a cannula in the wound; and, at the same time, a discharge began to take place through the rectum. The evacuation through both these outlets continued for three months. The ultimate result was the perfect recovery of the patient; the hæmatocele and the uterine tumour having both disappeared. She has gained flesh and strength in a remarkable degree. For many weeks after the discharge had ceased, there was an evacuation of pus from the bladder.

Mr. J. F. CLARKE had seen the patient; and, except for the scar of the trocar, it would not be known that the tumour had existed.

Dr. GREENHALGH said there were two different fibroid conditions of uterus. One was very common at about 40 years of age, and was very likely to disappear of itself. The other class was that of true fibrous tumours of the uterus. As far as his experience had gone, they never led to the death of the patient. He, therefore, entirely set his face against such operations as was described by Mr. Brown.

*Cancer of the Female Breast with Ulceration.* Mr. HAYNES WALTON related a case, which will be published in full in the JOURNAL.

*Aneurism of the Arch of the Aorta.* Mr. EDMUNDS

exhibited a specimen. There was atheroma, and in some parts almost ossification; and the aortic valves had shared in the atheromatous degeneration. All the other valves were healthy.

*Disease of the Hip joint.* Mr. WILLIAM ADAMS brought before the notice of the Society a class of cases belonging to chronic rheumatic arthritis of hip-joint in old people, beginning with pain, and going on to shortening and lameness. He thought cases of disease of the hip-joint might be divided into those where there was excess of bone, and those where there was wasting of the head and neck of the femur. The case to which he alluded belonged to the latter kind. A gentleman, aged 70, who had suffered some years from hip symptoms, consulted Mr. Adams on account of a "tumour" in the groin, which, however, disappeared on sitting. He had an oblique pelvis, with a shortened leg, which shortening had taken place rapidly. The tumour was simply a bulging of the muscles, which had not yet accommodated themselves to the shortening. Exercise and good living were recommended. In such cases, he also gave phosphate of lime, and quinine, and sometimes cod-liver oil. It might be a question whether anything should be done for the local affection, or whether we should merely improve the general health, taking especial care to promote exercise of the joint.

*The Climate of Scarborough.* Dr. EDWARD SMITH gave some details relating to the climate of Scarborough, from the Registrar-General's Report.

*Curious Affection of the Nervous System.* Dr. ALTHAUS related the case of a merchant aged 30, who was shipwrecked some time ago, and being saved by a life-buoy, was picked up in about three-quarters of an hour by a boat. The water was a little over freezing-point. He came to England, and when seen by Dr. Althaus there was hyperæsthesia of some parts and anæsthesia of others, and also some paralysis of voluntary motion, especially in the arms. The contractile power of the muscles was not suspended. Faradisation was applied, with the result of removing the hyperæsthesia and anæsthesia, and curing the patient.

## Correspondence.

### HOMŒOPATHY AND HYDROPATHY AT MALVERN.

LETTER FROM J. M. GULLY, M.D.

SIR,—Certain correspondence, in which my name is prominently produced, has been put into my hands; for I cannot boast of being your regular reader. Neither have I, like a neighbour of mine down here, any fear of being placed under your ban. I neither deprecate your malison nor supplicate your benison. The fœtor of servility which exhales from minds putrescent with sordid calculations as to which opinion will pay the best, may be sweet incense to the nostrils of the low-minded members of the medical profession; for these two mentalities have acute sympathies and mutual appreciation; but I will not believe that the great mass of medical gentlemen will reverence any *confrère* who crawls at their feet, nor any slave who licks their saliva. Impertinent statements regarding my financial position, which none but myself can know; protestations that no harm can be done, because my fortune is made (as if character went for nothing); proclamation of the thousand pounds a year lost by orthodoxy; guesses as to my private arrangements; offscourings of gossip about my patients; procuring prescriptions for production like Old Bailey evidence; trumpeted, perhaps true, statements of "large and rapidly increasing practice." On such a farrago of vulgarities, of shoppishness and snob-

some stertor appeared, and the sponge was at once withdrawn. In another minute, full stertor came on; the face, without any pallor, showed a dusky livid hue, the pulse ceased, and the respiration was becoming visibly slower. Mr. Field had not begun the operation. We instantly commenced artificial respiration, and slapped the face and chest with a wet towel, but only a few more inspirations, or gasps, could be obtained. We continued the same means, took blood from the jugular vein, which was turgid, rubbed the limbs, and applied electro-magnetism, with the kind assistance of two other medical men; but after the lapse of an hour, no sign of life being elicited, and the body becoming cold, further efforts were evidently useless.

On a *post mortem* examination, the heart was found loaded with fat, its muscular substance thin and weak, and the walls of the right auricle and ventricle in a state of fatty degeneration. These same cavities (the right) were gorged with fluid blood. The valves and great vessels were healthy, and no other organ appeared to be in any abnormal state. Death had clearly occurred from failure of the heart's action, induced much more readily than could have happened under natural circumstances by chloroform, owing to the weakened and encumbered condition of the heart.

I am, etc., W. E. C. NOURSE, F.R.C.S.

11, Old Steyne, Brighton, Nov. 6th, 1861.

### PHRENOLOGICAL CASTS.

LETTER FROM J. CRICHTON BROWNE, ESQ.

SIR,—In the last number of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, the following paragraph appears:—

"We are very glad to find that the Newgate authorities refused to allow a cast of the convict Cogan's face after death, it being the opinion of the surgeon that no useful scientific purpose could be served by such phrenological vagaries."

Now, sir, it has been observed that the human mind has usually opposed a passive and instinctive resistance or *vis inertiae* to the progress of new ideas, even when of the most simple and palpable description; and it has been also remarked that where the new doctrine treats of matters not lying on the surface, and when it appears to clash with established views on points in which the feelings are apt to be interested, an active, passionate, and vehement opposition may be looked for. It had been hoped that the diffusion of knowledge at the present day, and of liberal and enlightened opinions on scientific subjects, and also the length of time during which phrenology had been before the public, would have secured for it a more calm and fair examination than it at first received, or even now receives. The paragraph quoted above was, therefore, read with considerable surprise and much regret; for it unmistakably shows that the Newgate authorities are animated by feelings tyrannical and unfair towards phrenology, and that the Newgate surgeon is actuated in the present instance by sentiments anything but enlarged and philosophical. It is surely unjust that a whole doctrine should be rejected, and its patient students stigmatised as quacks and promulgators of "vagaries," by men who have never looked at a brain or skull with a view to discover the relation they might bear to mental manifestations. It is not at all material to the question before us whether phrenology be true or false. Whether true or false, it appeals to facts and to nature; and no logical opponent would attempt to prevent its disciples from accumulating observations, which will militate against themselves if phrenology be false, and which will go further to refute it in such a case, than the *à priori* arguments with which it is frequently met. The interference of the Newgate authorities must be regarded with apprehension; for why should not pathological "vagaries" be extinguished by putting a stop to *post mortem* examinations?

I know not by whom the application for the cast of Cogan's head was made. Very probably by some of those charlatans and quacks who prostitute science, but who, at the same time, often collect valuable materials to be used by its legitimate followers. I cannot help thinking that a cast of the convict's head might have been interesting and useful, even apart from its phrenological significance, and I regret that it was not procured.

I am, etc., J. CRICHTON BROWNE.

Nith House, Dumfries, October 28, 1861.

## Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND. The following members of the College, having been elected Fellows at previous meetings of the Council, were admitted as such on Nov. 7th:—

Campbell, Robert L., Inverness; diploma of membership dated April 17, 1833

Holmes, Charles, Slough; April 20, 1838  
Jones, Arthur N., Bideford; July 23, 1841  
Lewis, James, Maesteg, Glamorganshire; May 28, 1841  
Michell, Samuel V. P., Redruth; April 5, 1839  
Prankard, John, Langport; February 16, 1838  
Sampson, James K., Southampton; June 24, 1839  
Weston, Robert P., Wellington, Salop; May 3, 1831

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On November 7th, the following licentiates were admitted:—

Barham, Herbert F. H., Maidstone  
Barker, Robert Arnold, Burton Street, Burton Crescent  
Croft, Thomas H. W., Snitterfield, Warwickshire  
Mortimer, William, Trewellwell, Pembrokeshire  
Sutton, Charles F., Wragby, Lincolnshire

### APPOINTMENTS.

ADAMS, Robert, A.M., M.D., appointed Consulting-Surgeon to the Lying-in Hospital, Dublin, in the room of the late J. W. Cusack, M.D.  
BADER, Charles, Esq., appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the Ophthalmic Department of Guy's Hospital.  
CORRIGAN, Dominic John, M.D., elected President of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland.  
DENHAM, John, M.D., elected Master of the Lying-in Hospital, Dublin, in the room of A. H. McClintock, M.D.  
\*DURHAM, Arthur, Esq., elected Assistant-Surgeon to Guy's Hospital.  
FRANCE, J. F., Esq., elected Consulting Surgeon to the Guy's Hospital Eye Infirmary.  
LIVETT, H. W., M.D., elected Mayor of Wells.  
\*MARSHALL, Henry, M.D., appointed Surgeon to the Bristol General Hospital, in the room of the late \*J. Godfrey, M.D.  
MALTBY, John W., M.D., elected Physician to the Durham County Hospital, in the room of T. L. Watkin, M.D.  
POLAND, Alfred, Esq., appointed Surgeon to Guy's Hospital, and Surgeon to the Ophthalmic Department.  
SMITH, Aquilla, M.D., elected Vice-President of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland.  
\*TERRY, J. C., M.D., elected Mayor of Lincoln.

### DEATHS.

COLLUM. On November 11th, at Chester Place, Hyde Park, aged 3 years, William M., younger son of Robert Collum, M.D.  
HARRIES, George J., M.D., son of \*Charles A. Harries, Esq., of Bath, at Clifton Road, St. John's Wood, on November 12.  
HART. On November 7th, at 69, Wimpole Street, Rosetta, wife of \*Ernest Hart, Esq.  
LEE. On November 9th, at Thame, aged 8, George Ernest, youngest son of Richard Lee, Esq., Surgeon.  
MACLAGAN. On November 3rd, at Berwick-upon-Tweed, aged 7, Susannah R., fourth daughter of Philip W. MacLagan, M.D.  
ROBERTS, Avery, M.D., at Brighton, on November 7.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. The examination for the degree of doctor of medicine in this university is appointed to commence on Monday, the 25th inst., and will extend over four days.

MEDICAL VACANCIES. The following appointments are vacant: the Professorship of Pathological Anatomy in University College, by the resignation of Dr. Jenner; Resident Medical Officer to University College Hospital, by the resignation of Dr. Andrew; Medical Officer is required for District No. 10 of the Newton Abbot Union, Devonshire.

SIR JOHN CÆSAR HAWKINS, Bart., expired on Saturday last at Frenchay, Gloucestershire. The deceased was in the eighty-ninth year of his age. The first baronet was sergeant-surgeon to George III.

ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH. The sum of £109 has been paid over to the funds of this institution, being the proceeds (after deducting expenses) of the lecture delivered in the Assembly Rooms there by M. Du Chaillu.

SURGICAL COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION. Mr. J. R. Traer has been appointed to superintend class 17, or the surgical committee. This class enrolls among its members, Dr. Bryson, Mr. Cæsar Hawkins, Mr. South, Mr. Paget, Mr. J. Moncrieff Arnott, and Mr. Longmore.

DEATH OF GEOFFROY ST. HILAIRE. The celebrated French naturalist, Isidore Geoffroy St. Hilaire, died on Sunday. He was the son of Etienne Geoffroy St. Hilaire, who died in 1844. The deceased was born at Paris in 1805. The example and the teachings of his father inspired him even in his childhood with a taste for the natural sciences, to the study of which he devoted himself with untiring ardour and remarkable success. In 1826 he presented to the Institute a *memoire* upon the mammalia, and he was but twenty-one when elected a member of the Academy, which was then presided over by his father. He was successively Professor of Zoology at the Museum, Director of the Menagerie, Inspector-General, Councillor of the University, etc. Among the later movements with which his name is more especially connected, was the establishment of the Imperial Zoological Society of Acclimatisation, of which he was the president.

DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM. On Saturday last, an inquest was held at Paddington, on the body of Edwin Hambly, aged eight years, whose death occurred while under the influence of chloroform. Mr. Edwards, chloroformist to St. Mary's Hospital, deposed that he had held that position for the last eight years. The deceased was admitted to the institution on the 25th ultimo to undergo a plastic operation to remove a great deformity, occasioned by a burn in the chin, which had the effect of drawing it down to an unusual degree, and turning the under lip inside out. On the Wednesday following, the day appointed for the operation, witness administered the chloroform gently. It took ten minutes to get the boy under its influence, and then the operation was commenced by Mr. Lane, the senior surgeon. Just before the conclusion deceased fainted, and, with a view to restore him, witness promptly commenced artificial respiration, which he kept up for half an hour. Failing in his efforts, he was put in a warm bath, and galvanism was applied for an hour and a half, but without success. Witness believed that the poor boy died instantly he fainted from paralysis of the heart. This was the first and only fatal chloroform case he ever had since the opening of St. Mary's Hospital, now over ten years, during which time chloroform had been successfully administered to upwards of 4,000 persons. In a *post mortem* examination they found all the organs healthy, and no trace of disease anywhere. Death was solely from paralysis of the heart from the effects of chloroform. He never had a case die before from chloroform. The strangest part of this affair was that, when death took place, the boy was apparently recovering from the effects of the chloroform. Other medical gentlemen who were examined fully corroborated the evidence of Mr. Edwards, and testified to his great experience and his remarkable caution in the administration of chloroform. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased instantly died during the performance of a surgical operation upon him from the effects of a failure of the action of his heart, occasioned by chloroform accidentally and by misfortune.

## 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 Orthopedic, 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 Society of London, 8:30 P.M.: Dr. Mackenzie, Lettsomian Lecture on Phlegmasia Dolens.  
TUESDAY. Pathological, 8 P.M.—Statistical.  
WEDNESDAY. Meteorological.—Society of Arts.—Geological.—Royal Society of Literature.  
THURSDAY. Royal, 8:30 P.M.—Harveian, 8 P.M.—Linnæan, 8 P.M.—Antiquarian.  
SATURDAY. Royal Botanical.

## POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—NOVEMBER 9, 1861.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.		Deaths.	
During week.....	{ Boys.. 840	1710	{ Girls.. 870	1251
Average of corresponding weeks 1851-60 .....		1647		1100

Barometer:  
Highest (Mon.) 29.824; lowest (Fri.) 29.210; mean 29.460.

Thermometer:  
Highest in sun—extremes (Th.) 88 degs.; (Mon.) 58 degs.  
In shade—highest (Tu.) 55.5 degrees; lowest (Mon.) 29.2 degs.  
Mean—42 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.—3.4 degs.  
Range—during week, 26.3 degrees; mean daily, 14.6 degrees.  
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 89.  
Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.81.

## 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.

THE ALCOHOL QUESTION.—Dr. Inman has sent us a letter, in which he maintains, by numerous reasonings and facts, that alcohol is both food and physic. "Sweeping away cobwebs," he says, "we come to the following proofs, that alcohol duly diluted is food:—1, I have investigated five cases in which for many months nothing more was taken but alcohol and water—the persons keeping up their apparent health and strength, and one increasing in fat." Now, if this the first statement is worth anything, it positively asserts this: that dilute alcohol is food, and that it undergoes transformations in the body, and is converted into fat; and it at once puts an end to all further argument on the subject. We, therefore, ask Dr. Inman, who speaks on authority after investigation, to give us details of these astonishing cases—of persons living, not for hours or days or even weeks, but for many months, on dilute alcohol, and getting fat under its use. We want scientific facts scientifically stated; and one of the above kind cannot be accepted in such a loose form as this.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. EDWARD SMITH; Mr. A. B. STEELE; Mr. J. POSTGATE; Mr. CLIFTON; Dr. G. RUCHANAN; Dr. HILLIER; Dr. COPEMAN; Mr. GARDNER; Dr. SWANNE; Mr. J. Z. LAURENCE; Dr. P. H. WILLIAMS; Dr. JAMES RUSSELL; Dr. W. WILLIAM BUDD; Mr. E. VENNING; Mr. WILLIAM CORNEY; Dr. H. MARSHALL; Mr. F. MASON; Mr. J. HUTCHINSON; Mr. H. WALTON; Dr. BRYAN; Mr. DANIELL; Dr. ODY; Dr. McLosky; Mr. W. BLOWER; and Mr. T. M. STONE.