

seeing our JOURNAL taking its place on the tables of our public libraries here, and in the increasing frequency with which it is quoted on matters of medical science by our general daily press.

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.

Reports of Societies.

OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 1861.

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

TWENTY-EIGHT gentlemen were balloted for and duly elected as Fellows. The following candidates for admission into the Society were ordered to be balloted for at the next meeting—viz.: T. W. Best, Esq.; Dr. Joseph Cogan; Wm. Collingwood, Esq.; Hugh Croskery, Esq.; Robert Ellis, Esq.; T. T. Frankland, Esq.; A. J. Harris, Esq.; Dr. H. S. Hounsell; and John Williams, Esq.

Obstetrical Instruments. By J. B. HICKS, M.D. Dr. Hicks exhibited some instruments, made under his directions by Durooch, of St. Thomas's Street, London Bridge, for the removal of polypi, cauliflower growths, cervix uteri, haemorrhoids, etc. Their principle consisted in the adaptation of rope, made of annealed steel-wire, to the shaft of a screw-écraseur, whereby the flexibility of the rope was combined with nearly the strength of the chain. Dr. Hicks said he had made experiments with a variety of materials, and considered the annealed steel-wire that which combined the greatest strength with the most flexibility.

Dr. OLDHAM then exhibited a large Fibroid Polypus of the Uterus, which he had lately removed with Dr. Hicks' larger instrument. The tumour completely filled the vagina, distending it above the level of the brim. The rope was carried around its neck by the hand passed into the vagina, and the section completed without difficulty or hemorrhage.

Dr. TYLER SMITH observed, that if the annealed steel-wire were stronger than other wire, Dr. Hicks would have rendered essential service in the treatment of polypus. He had himself for many years abandoned the use of whalecord for wire in the removal of polypus and cauliflower excrescence. His instrument was made on the plan of Gooch's, but sufficiently strong to cut through the tumour at once. He had used plated copper-wire, or hard iron-wire, both singly and stranded.

Mr. SPENCER WELLS, in reply to a question from Dr. Hicks, stated that the wire-cord he had used was made by stranding together from six to ten lengths of the ordinary Sheffield iron-wire introduced by Dr. Simpson. He (Mr. Wells) had removed fibrous polypi easily by this cord, and had once cut through the cervix uteri without difficulty. He had used the screw-écraseur for tightening the cord, and the tourniquet-screw; but he thought the double sawing action of Mathieu's rack-écraseur was better than the simple screw used by Dr. Hicks. In one case, the tumour was sawn off; in the other, simply squeezed off.

Polypus of the Uterus removed by the Ecraseur. By GRAILY HEWITT, M.D. The polypus was pendulous in the vagina by a thin pedicle from the interior of the

uterus, and was of the size of an egg, having a flattened shape. There was no difficulty in the operation, which succeeded perfectly. The case was worthy of mention, inasmuch as it had been treated for about a year for prolapsus uteri, a pessary having been worn.

Ovariotomy. By ISAAC BAKER BROWN, Esq. Mr. Brown related the histories of the following five cases, of which four were successful. CASE I. L. H., aged 21, single, had tumour two years, and had been twice tapped. There were no adhesions. The pedicle was secured by a clamp, which was taken off three days afterwards, and the pedicle allowed to return. He never had a bad symptom. The tumour was multilocular, and contained seventeen pints of fluid.—CASE II. F. W., aged 19, single, had a tumour two years. There were no adhesions. The pedicle was treated as in Case I. She had only one grain of opium, and was now quite convalescent. The tumour was multilocular and composed of one large cyst, containing fourteen pints of fluid, and a conglomerated mass of smaller cysts.—CASE III. C. S., aged 49, married, had a tumour six years, and had twice been tapped. There was only one adhesion, in the direction of the liver, which was tied with a ligature. She had one grain of opium nightly since the operation. She did well. The tumour was multilocular, and weighing 1 lb. 11 oz. It consisted of two cysts, with very thin walls, containing between eleven and twelve pints of dark albuminous fluid, and several masses of conglomerated cysts, varying in size from a walnut to an orange.—CASE IV. M. A. M., aged 50, the mother of six children, of very nervous and desponding temperament, had a tumour for three years. It weighed 6 lb. 14 oz., and was composed of a mass of honeycomb cysts. There were no adhesions above, but there was one in the direction of the liver, which was ligatured. The tumour was withdrawn with great difficulty, it having modeled itself to the form of the pelvis and being attached to the whole external surface of the fundus of the uterus. The pedicle was large. One portion only was secured by callipers; the remainder divided into four separate portions, and secured by as many double ligatures. These were retained outside. There were also several large vessels ligatured. The patient sank forty hours after the operation. She had two grains of opium given her altogether. The autopsy showed very partial peritonitis and general congestion of the abdominal viscera. The whole surface of the pedicle was covered with clots, and there was also some blood in the cavity of the peritoneum. She evidently died from the great shock of the operation.—CASE V. M. T., aged 23, had a tumour over three years. There were no adhesions. The patient had not had a bad symptom, and was convalescent.

These cases make a total of fourteen operations for ovariotomy performed in the London Surgical Home, of which ten have been successful.

RETENTION OF URINE AFTER DELIVERY.

BY SPENCER WELLS, ESQ.

The coats of the bladder which was presented were thickened; and lying loose in the cavity there was found a mass, composed of the whole of the mucous membrane, detached from the muscular coat, and covered on both sides with a deposit of the saline elements of urine. Microscopically, this mass might be described as degenerate epithelium holding together saline deposit. On boiling a piece of it in twenty parts of water to one of acetic acid, much of the saline matter was dissolved, and some of the tissue became clear, looking like smooth muscular tissue which has begun to degenerate by the deposit of fatty or albuminous particles in its substance. Mr. Wells brought the case before the Society by the express desire of the father of the patient (a member of our profession) in order to impress the lesson that a valuable life may be lost, and the surgeon's reputation

evidence will stand the most searching cross-examination.) 4. Chloroform, allied to alcohol, is invaluable in convulsions; and, by following its inhalation by the temperate use of wine, infantile and other convulsions may frequently be arrested completely. 5. In cases of marasmus, I have already recorded cases of children recovering health under the influence of diluted alcohol alone (sugar included). (See *Foundation for New Theory, etc.*, pp. 396-8.) I have seen adults brought round by a diet of champagne and turtle soup, without anything else, during three whole weeks; and a patient dying with phthisis recover wonderfully for a short period on champagne alone. 6. Alcohol stands next to opium as a narcotic; and it appears to have many other similar properties (and here let us note that opium, like alcohol, passes out of the body after it has been imbibed: *e.g.*, the nursing mother taking it will narcotise her infant). And it is to be noted that a debauch on opium, on wine or spirits, and on beef and butter (see Simpson's *Voyage Round the World*; chapter, *Siberia*) will all equally produce prolonged insensibility. I have, in cases of idiopathic pervigilium, procured sleep by brandy and water, when such narcotics as opium and Indian hemp were useless. 7. In fever, without wine, we may often find the patients restless, sleepless, delirious. We give them wine; and immediately they become quiet, sleepy, and rational; and this not once or twice, but repeatedly. 8. In jaundice, I have seen the same patient treated on the total abstinence plan and the temperate stimulant one. On the former, relapses were so frequent that the lady was never well during half a year. The turning-point was the free use of wine. On subsequent occasions, a few days was the limit of the illness, when treated generously from the first. 9. In the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, the admissions into which amount to about two thousand annually, the average number of patients in the house weekly, taking the average for twenty-seven years prior to the time when the generous treatment of disease was uncommon, and when the average amount per man admitted was three shillings, was 202. For seven years since that period, the weekly average of patients in the house is 170, the annual number remaining about the same; and the cost of wine has increased to seven shillings per head admitted. This distinctly proves that the average duration of patients in the house has been materially lessened. I am, too, informed by one of my surgical colleagues that the average success of surgical operations under the present temperate stimulant plan is considerably greater than under the former abstinent period.

We may therefore fairly consider that a *prima facie* case is made out in favour of alcohol both as food or physic. Let us now examine some objections.

1. It often increases feverishness. Granted. Well, then, let it alone in those cases. If wine make a patient worse, withhold it; if it make another better, why not give it him? 2. It makes the mouth and tongue dry, and promotes thirst. So do beef and mutton. Eat a pound of beef, and you will want more water after it than after a glass of whiskey. It is said, too, to create a craving for more: if you take it to-day, you can't do without it to-morrow. It is the same with beef: a man does not despise a breakfast because he wants a dinner afterwards, or good tea because he goes for a second cup. 3. Patients get well without alcohol in any form. Granted. So do horses when they have been hurt; but they get better sooner on oats than on grass. And oats make a horse so frisky, that we may be allowed the fancy that they really give *spirits* to the animal. 4. Persons who are total abstainers are fat and strong. Granted. So are pigs and oxen; and dray-horses, which indulge in beer, are so too. The biggest and strongest men I know drink far more strong water than they eat food. Merry and fat Jack Falstaff took very little bread to the sack he drank. 5. Indulgence in alcoholic drinks

induces various diseases. Well! so does indulgence in venery. Everybody knows that the fire that warms may burn them if they get too much of it. Must we all be celibate, therefore, and eschew fires? 6. The use of alcohol is said to make a man a beast. What beast, I wonder? The Australian savage had the sleep of coma without fermented liquors; the New Guinea man was a tiger, the red Indian a snake, long before they drank whiskey; and nowhere do we see such terrific bursts of passion, blind rage, and fury, as in the growing milk or water drinking child, before the rod has taught him to control his passions. Alcohol never yet created a bad passion.

We may conclude, then—1. That alcohol is food; 2. That it is physic; 3. That too much of it is a bad thing. And a meagre conclusion, truly, it seems.

I am, etc., T. INMAN.

Liverpool, November 1861.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND. The following gentlemen passed their primary examinations in Anatomy and Physiology, at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on November 5th, and when eligible will be admitted to the pass examination:—

London Hospital.

Brereton, Alfred Henry Levick, George
Dye, David Hyman

St. George's Hospital.

Bloxam, Matthew White, Arthur Calcutta
Cocksedge, Thomas A. J.

Dublin School of Medicine.

Carson, Alexander Tertius Jordan, Myles Joseph
Clarke, Alexander Carson

Cork School of Medicine.

Spedding, William Alexander Tomkins, Charles Payne
Guy's Hospital.

Jordison, Robert Lloyd Topham, Herbert
Birmingham School of Medicine. Glasgow School of Medicine.

Ireland, John Roaf Roberts, Robert

King's College.

Grigg, William Chapman Edinburgh School of Medicine.
St. Thomas's Hospital. Wright, Frederick William

Bramley, William Sturdy Manchester School of Medicine.
Holt, John

The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on November 12th. [Those gentlemen with an asterisk prefixed to their names, are also Licentiates of the Society of Apothecaries.]

*Ballenden, John Henry Moffat, Sedgley, near Dudley

Carson, Alexander Tertius, Coleraine

Clarke, Alexander Carson, Coleraine

*Clay, Arthur H., Stamford

Cocks, Cambridge C., Ross, Herefordshire

Davey, James Samuel Engleue, Bristol

*Dawson, Richard Henry, Broxholme, Lincolnshire

Dumaine, Louis Ernest, Port of Spain, Trinidad

Foote, Augustus Carmichael, Demerara

*Gardner, Edward Barton, Montague Street, W.C.

Jordan, Myles Joseph, Castlbar, co. Mayo

Lathbury, Thomas Arthur, Birmingham

Marshall, Walter Thomas, Birmingham

Nutt, Horace, Cold Overton, Leicestershire

Prickett, George Benwell, Oxford

Rouse, Lewis Risdon Heysett, Torrington, Devon

Spedding, William A., Glastry, co. Down

*Tanner, Richard Canning, Painswick, Gloucestershire

Tomkins, Charles Payne, Cork

Will, Alexander, Melbourne, Australia

Williams, Edward Humphrey, Carnarvon

Wilson, James, Birmingham

At the same meeting of the Court—

O'Connor, Daniel, of the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth, passed his examination for Naval Surgeon. This gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the College: his diploma bearing date July 4th, 1856.

Admitted on November 13th:—

Anderson, John, Manchester

Cocker, William Henry, Blackpool, Lancashire

Colston, Samuel B., Brixham, Devon
 Dyte, David Hyman, London
 Fryer, John, Newbiggin, Bishopdale, Yorkshire
 Gedney, John, Hull
 Gwynn, Edmund, Caterham, Surrey
 Haslam, George H., Market Drayton, Shropshire
 Hedley, Edward Anthony, Felton, Northumberland
 Jones, John Lloyd, Treborth, near Bangor
 *Lee, Herbert G., Thame, Oxfordshire
 Miller, Richard May, B.A., Loud, Barnstaple, Devon
 Moore, Edwin, York
 Nickols, Thomas, Leeds
 Okell, George, Northwich, Cheshire
 Passmore, Thomas Henry, Instow, North Devon
 Rowe, Thomas Henry, Haverfordwest
 Rudge, John E., Westbourne Grove, Bayswater
 Smart, Bath Charles, Balsham, Cambridgeshire
 Somerville, James H., Bloxwich, Staffordshire
 Strother, Arthur, Forest Gate, Essex
 Williamson, Henry George, M.D., Nantwich, Cheshire

Admitted on November 14th:—

Allfrey, Charles Henry, Stamford Hill
 Cooper, Herbert, Bristol
 Davey, John Edwin, Lewes, Sussex
 Dustan, John, Jersey
 Edwards, Morgan John, Newbridge, Glamorganshire
 Fletcher, Henry Studd, Abingdon
 Gale, Henry Stanley, Hampstead
 Harris, Walter, Waterford
 Hicks, John Wale, Hackney
 Lidderdale, John, Osmington, near Weymouth
 Meade, Edward, Middleton, co. Cork
 Mitish, Henry William, Calcutta
 Murrell, William Henry Julius, Lewes, Sussex
 Onley, Samuel, Cheltenham
 Ramsbotham, Samuel Henry, Leeds
 Russell, William Smyth, West Indies
 Smith, Henry, Wigan, Lancashire
 Thorne, Thomas Henry, Northampton
 Wadd, Thomas Herbert, Basinghall Street
 Watson, William Tyndale, Tottenham
 Whital, James William, Chertsey
 Winterbottom, Edwin John, Sloane Street

Admitted on November 15th:—

*Adams, Thomas Rutherford, Kilkenny
 Daniell, John, Sydney, Australia
 Hoff, George Framingham, Calcutta
 Sheetz, James, Etawah, Bengal Presidency
 Sheppard, William Matthew, Geelong, Australia
 Tray, John Henry, Clarendon Square

Admitted on November 19th:—

Handy, H. Francis, Melbourne, Australia

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE. The following graduates have passed their examinations for degrees in medicine:

Doctor of Medicine.

Robertson, Charles A. L.

Bachelors of Medicine.

Cheadle, Walter B., B.A. Fish, John C., B.A.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On November 14th, the following licentiates were admitted:—

Adams, Walter, Ipswich
 Bromiley, John Bourne, Stourbridge, Worcestershire
 Carter, Edward Hunt, Billericay, Essex
 Dyte, David Hyman, London Hospital
 Owen, Richard Jones, Leamington, Warwickshire
 Walker, Bernard, Sheffield

APPOINTMENTS.

CROSSLEY, C. R., Esq., elected Surgeon to the Leicester Infirmary.
 MARIOTT, C. H., Esq., elected Surgeon to the Leicester Infirmary.
 MASON, David, M.D., appointed, by the Queen, a member of the Legislative Council of the Island of Jamaica.

PATERN, Charles A., Esq., appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the Convict Prison at Portsmouth, vice W. W. Leadam, M.D.

ROGERS, Frederick J., Esq., elected House-Surgeon to the Leicester Infirmary.

Royal ARMY. The following appointments have been made:—

ANDERSON, Assistant-Surgeon J., M.B., 73rd Foot, to be Staff-Assistant-Surgeon, vice Creagh.
 BRIEN, Staff-Surgeon E. A., to be Surgeon 1st West India Regiment, vice Martin.
 BUCKLE, Staff-Surgeon R. T., M.D., to be Surgeon 15th Foot, vice Bawtree.
 BURRELL, Staff-Surgeon W. H., M.D., to be Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals.
 CLEACH, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon W., to be Assistant-Surgeon Royal Artillery, vice Hawkins.
 DONELL, Staff-Surgeon O. S., having completed twenty years full-pay service, to be Staff Surgeon-Major.

GIBBON, Assistant-Surgeon E. A., 7th Foot, to be Staff-Assistant-Surgeon, vice Longmore.
 JOHNSTON, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon J. S., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 72nd Foot, vice Jones.
 LEET, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon C. H., to be Assistant-Surgeon 5th Foot, vice Whity.
 LOGIE, Surgeon C. G., M.D., Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, having completed twenty years full pay service, to be Surg.-Major.
 MENZIES, Staff-Surgeon E., to be Staff-Surgeon-Major.
 THOMPSON, Staff-Surgeon W. R., M.D., to be Surgeon 2nd West India Regiment, vice McDermott.
 TOTHILL, Assistant-Surgeon J. H., 18th Foot, to be Staff-Assistant-Surgeon, vice H. T. Sylvester, M.D.
 WHITTY, Assistant-Surgeon T. R., 5th Foot, to be Staff-Assistant-Surgeon, vice Leet.

ROYAL NAVY. The following appointments have been made:—

ALLAN, James A., M.D., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Emerald*.
 ANDERSON, James R., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Nile*, for Marine Battalion.

CORRIL, Peter, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Edgar*.
 ELLIOTT, George, Esq., Assist.-Surgeon, to the Chatham Marines.
 FAWCETT, James E., Esq., Assist.-Surgeon (addit.), to the *Wellesley*.
 HALPIN, Joseph, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Riflemen*.
 HAMILTON, Mark, M.D., Surgeon, to the *Greyhound*.
 HEAD, Richard, L. B., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Impregnable*, for service in the *Squirrel*.

KING, John, Esq., Surgeon, to the *Donegal*.
 KNAGGS, Sydney H., Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Algiers*.
 NATHAN, Henry F., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Cambridge*.
 RAHILLY, Michel J., M.D., Acting Assist.-Surg., to the *Greyhound*.
 SLOGGETT, William, Esq., Surgeon, to the *Edgar*.

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

ADAMS, A. M., jun., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 2nd Royal Lancashire Militia.
 COCHILL, J. D. M., Esq., to be Surgeon 2nd Royal Lancashire Militia, vice Gominy.

FIFE, J. B., Esq., to be Surgeon 1st Newcastle-on-Tyne R.V., vice Angus.

FOULKES, F., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 6th Regiment Royal Lancashire Militia.

INNES, J. G., Esq., Surgeon 1st Administrative Battalion Elginshire R.V.

LAWRENCE, S., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 5th Forfarshire R.V.

LOMAX, H. T., Esq., to be Surgeon 2nd Administrative Battalion Staffordshire R.V.

MANFORD, R. A., Esq., to be Surgeon 1st Administrative Battalion Invernessshire R.V.

ORD, G. R., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 4th Surrey R.V.

SMITH, R., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon 1st Administrative Battalion Elginshire R.V.

TERRY, J. N., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 2nd West Riding of Yorkshire A.V.

WILSON, J., Esq., to be Surgeon 1st Invernessshire A.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

JENKINS, R., Esq., 5th Glamorganshire R.V.
 JONES, W. W., Esq., 11th Shropshire R.V.

LESLIE, J., Esq., 5th Aberdeenshire R.V.

MASFEN, W. F., M.B., 25th Staffordshire R.V.

PARK, G., Esq., 11th Perthshire R.V.

DEATHS.

BOWLING. On November 16th, at Hampstead, aged 76, Ann, widow of the late *John Bowling, Esq., of Hammersmith.

*FORBES, Sir John, M.D., D.C.L., F.R.S., at Whitchurch, Oxon, aged 73, on November 13.

PRING. On November 12th, at Taunton, Louisa, wife of James H. Pring, M.D.

SAVER, Augustin, M.D., at 28, Upper Seymour Street, aged 71, on November 15.

TOMKIN, Thomas, M.D., at Witham, Essex, aged 74, on Nov. 17.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL. It is supposed that the demand made by the Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital for compensation from the Charing Cross Railway people will be reduced to between £250,000 and 300,000.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE. Two gentlemen educated at this establishment have recently passed the second B.A. examination of the University of London; one being placed in the first, and one in the second division.

THE MEDICAL COLLEGES OF NEW YORK have now all commenced their winter sessions, and, we are glad to learn, with classes which prove that the average number of students in this city has not materially diminished. (*American Med. Times.*)

THE ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY. At a meeting of the Ethnological Society, held last Tuesday, Dr. Hunt read a report of the Ethnological Papers read at the British Association at Manchester. Mr. Crawford, the chairman, said that more persons attended these meetings than any other.

SOCIETY OF ARTS. At the opening meeting of the 108th session of the Society of Arts, on Wednesday last, one of the Society's silver medals was presented to Dr. Edward Smith, for his papers, on "Recent Experimental Inquiries into the Nature and Action of Alcohols as Food," and on "The Uses of Tea in the Healthy System."

AMERICAN ARMY HOSPITALS. We learn that General McClellan has ordered the immediate construction of the most improved pavilion hospitals, for the accommodation of 5000 beds, with 1750 cubic feet of air-space for each patient. The sites for the buildings have been selected. We may congratulate the country for having at the head of its army, a commander so enlightened in all that relates to the welfare of its citizen soldiers. (*Amer. Med. Times.*)

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL. On Tuesday week, the materials of the old hospital in Portugal Street, Lincoln's Inn, formerly the workhouse of the parish of St. Clement Danes, were sold by auction, preparatory to the site being cleared for the completion of the new hospital. More than two-thirds of the new building are already erected; and all that remains to be done in order to complete the hospital, according to the architect's design, is to continue the Carey Street wing to Portugal Street, on the site of the old workhouse, which is now being pulled down.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE. The Vice-Chancellor has given notice that the Professorship of Chemistry has become vacant by the death of the Rev. James Cumming, and that the election of a new Professor of Chemistry will take place on Friday, the 6th day of December next. The electors to the Professorship are the persons whose names are on the electoral roll of the University. The Vice-Chancellor and proctors will receive the votes of the electors from eleven o'clock in the morning till one o'clock, when the Vice-Chancellor will declare the election. Mr. Liveing, of St. John's College, is at present the only declared candidate.

EXTRACTS FROM REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT. "Low typhoid fever is very prevalent at Steyning in Sussex, where in consequence of bad drainage it is believed to cling with greater tenacity. The total deaths in Brighton were 427 against 342 in the same quarter of 1860. Fever prevails in the more crowded parts of the town of Buckingham, where drainage and ventilation are stated to be very imperfect. At Worcester, where there has been a great deal of typhoid fever, almost every case has been accompanied by 'pustular eruption or ulceration of the throat, which sometimes became almost diphtheritic.' Typhus carried off a man, his three adult sons, and his granddaughter, who occupied two houses at Snitterfield (Stratford-on-Avon). It was very prevalent, though not very fatal, at Yeadon in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Of 29 deaths at Somersham (St. Ives) 9 were caused by diphtheria; and of 31 at Ixworth, in Suffolk, there were also 9 (in Great Livermere parish) from the same disease. It was fatal in 7 cases in Holt, Norfolk. Five deaths all in one family, occurred from it at Burnham in the same county; and in the neighbouring sub-district of Snettisham 'a malignant form of sore throat' is very prevalent, of which more than 30 cases (6 fatal) occurred in the parish of Hunstanton. Diphtheria raised the mortality at Loddon and Diss. It was fatal in 6 cases at Ellesmere. It prevailed greatly at Leake in Leicestershire, and it caused 5 deaths out of 26 at Holt in North Wales.

Varieties.

MEDICAL LEGISLATORS IN BRAZIL. There are no fewer than thirteen doctors of medicine members of the actual chamber of deputies, which consists of one hundred and twenty members; in the senate are two, this body consisting of about fifty senators. Thus, the profession enjoys far greater guarantees in this way than in the so-called liberal and enlightened British empire! As to Ireland, no comparison on this subject can be instituted, owing to her anomalous state in modern times. (*Dr. Daunt.*)

MARRIAGE OF A MEDICAL MAN NOT ADVISABLE. It has often occurred to us, that most medical men would be the better if they remain single. We know that it is opposed to the received opinion on the subject, and we own that it has its inconveniences. But we feel confident that, in the present state of society, in which expensive luxury forms a constant element, it is next to impossible for a general practitioner to support a proper appearance in the world from nothing more than the proceeds of his professional exertions. It is the married life that urges so many to work themselves to death. They cannot bear to see their family less than they should be. Consequently they are ever on the fret. They have no leisure to sit down and think. They cannot and must not do so; and it is owing to the cares of matrimony that many, who would otherwise have been philosophers, devoted to their profession, end by becoming nothing better than routiniers or professional tradesmen. In moments of real illness and danger the public do not ask whether the doctor rides or walks, is married or unmarried. All they require is that he should be at hand when he is wanted, and should be capable of performing all that is required of him. (*Medical Critic and Psych. Jour.*)

CONVERSION OF SEA-WATER FOR MARINE PURPOSES. On Thursday week a number of gentlemen connected with the shipping interest assembled on board the *Mataoika*, fitting out as an emigrant ship for New Zealand, and lying in the London Docks, for the purpose of witnessing the rapid conversion of the impure water of the docks into fresh water fit for drinking, by means of Gravely's patent sea-water distilling and aerating apparatus. The apparatus is now carried by most of the vessels chartered for the conveyance of government emigrants, and has proved of the greatest possible utility in the conversion of sea into fresh water, to the great comfort of the passengers, and the saving of a vast amount of stowage space in the vessels. Mr. Gravely, the patentee of the apparatus, explained the principle of the invention. It is extremely simple in construction, and easily applied, not only to vessels, but to land carriage, and from its portable character is found most useful in sweetening brackish water in the desert. The dirty water of the dock was first pumped up into a reservoir, under which a furnace is placed, and the steam arising from the boiling water, being collected in a steam-chest, passes through a number of small pipes, in which it is condensed, the water falling into a second reservoir in which the process of filtration and aeration takes place. By this process something like eight or ten gallons of beautifully pure water can be obtained in an hour, no matter how foul, or how much impregnated with deleterious matter it may be originally. Mr. Warington, the chemical operator to the Society of Apothecaries, on analysing the water thus produced, found it to be bright, colourless, soft, and well tasted, free from odour, and a very excellent water either as a beverage or for domestic purposes. It is estimated that one of these distilling apparatus would be fully equal to the abundant supply of 240 men; but as a matter of

PROFESSIONAL AMENITY.—We were not able last week, through want of space, to publish Dr. Inman's letter; but, in the mean time, asked him to give us some proofs of one astounding statement made in it by him; viz., "that he had investigated five cases in which for many months nothing was taken but alcohol and water, the persons keeping up their apparent health and strength, and one increasing in fat." This request, to be found in last week's notices, has produced the following note from Dr. Inman. As a reply to it, we again ask Dr. Inman to give us the details of those cases upon which he frames the statement alluded to. We will only remark, that we sincerely trust that this is not Dr. Inman's usual mode of arguing a scientific question.

"12, Rodney Street, Liverpool, Nov. 16, 1861.

"Sir,—Your notice of my letter in to-day's JOURNAL is insulting; but, as an editor, you offend with impunity.

"To fall in with the prejudices of the many may make the JOURNAL popular; but to commit breaches of good manners and good taste, will not make it respected.

"I am, etc., THOMAS INMAN."

ALCOHOL.—The following note is from a gentleman who was for some years chaplain to a county jail:

"SIR: I have read your interesting article on the alcoholic question. I am glad to see so important a subject taken up by the faculty. My observations on the generally improved health of the prisoners in — County Jail, made me a teetotaler. As you may suppose, we had not the most favourable specimens to operate upon; on the contrary, we had, as a rule, some of the greatest drunkards in the county in the prison. No doubt, cleanliness, regularity of diet, etc., had their share in promoting the health of the prisoners. Still the treadwheel and crank labour were daily endured without intoxicants; and the Infirmary was frequently without any invalids for weeks and months together; so that I arrived at the conclusion that alcoholic liquors are not at all necessary to men in health; and some ten years of personal abstinence have confirmed this conclusion. In Salford Jail, where there are between four and five hundred prisoners in daily confinement, they have not had one death for seven months, and no sickness worth speaking of."

T. S.—Perhaps you may think the enclosed advertisement worthy of notice in your JOURNAL.

"*Usk Homœopathic Dispensary.* Patron: His Grace the Duke of Beaufort. Patroness: Her Grace the Duchess of Beaufort. This Dispensary will be open on Mondays and Fridays, from 9.0 till 11.0 A.M., commencing Friday, 15th November, when advice and medicines will be administered to the poor. Medical officer: Wm. H. Watts, Esq., M.R.C.S.Eng. (Member of the British Homœopathic Society; late Assistant-Surgeon to the London Homœopathic Hospital, Bloomsbury, London). Terms: Two Shillings and Sixpence per Month. N.B.—Mr. Watts will attend at the Llanover Dispensary, under the patronage of the Right Hon. Lady Llanover, every Wednesday, at 3.0 P.M., and at the Llanarth Dispensary, under the patronage of the Hon. Mrs. Herbert, of Llanarth, every Thursday, at 9.30 A.M."

THE CRANLEY VILLAGE HOSPITAL.—Mr. A. Napper writes:—"In your notice of the Second Annual Report of the Cranley Village Hospital, you state, 'During the past year, twenty-three cases have been treated in this little hospital, which would otherwise have been transmitted to a London hospital.' Now, as my note which accompanied the report unequivocally stated that few, if any, of these twenty-three cases would have been sent to London, I must beg your insertion of this, as a means of controverting an erroneous impression, which I know exists in some quarters, that the multiplication of these small institutions will have a prejudicial effect on the London hospitals."

DR. GIBB AND SCIENTIFIC NOMENCLATURE.—SIR: It is to be hoped that the simple, yet precise, scientific language used by Mr. Toynebee, in his recent work on the *Diseases of the Ear*, is producing some influence upon the writings of medical men who pay attention to this branch of surgery. Dr. Gibb, however, in his paper lately published in your JOURNAL, appears to be beyond all hope, for the confusion of terms he has crowded together almost surpasses belief. Allow me to illustrate my meaning. Dr. Gibb begins by speaking of air going "into the tympanum", and of its "rupturing the membrana tympani." So far, good—the tympanum, we know, is the cavity of the drum, and the membrana tympani the head of the drum. But let us now see what terms Dr. Gibb proceeds to use when he means the membrana tympani. They are as follows:—1. *Tympanum*—"rupture of the tympanum" three times repeated. 2. *Membrana tympani*—"six ruptured membrana tympani"—"perforation of the membrana tympani." 3. *Tympanic membrane*—"rupture of the tympanic membrane", "perforation of the tympanic membrane", "ulcerative destruction

of the tympanic membrane", and "suppurative destruction of the tympanic membrane." 4. *The membrane of the tympanum*—"ulcerative destruction of the membrane of the tympanum." 5. *Tympanal membrane*—"ruptured tympanal membrane." 6, and lastly, as if to make confusion worse confounded, Dr. Gibb talks of "rupture of both tympani." It is to be hoped that before Dr. Gibb is found again "throwing these few observations together", he will throw his eyes upon his Latin grammar, and will give himself a short time to acquaint himself with the subject upon which he writes. In conclusion, sir, I may be allowed to say, that your admirable efforts to elevate the tone of the British Medical Association, and thereby that of the medical profession, are worthy of being seconded; and I sincerely hope that members of the Association will do their best to supply you with valuable, well written papers.

I am, etc.,

F.R.C.S.

MR. FLEISCHMANN.—We have received a long explanatory letter from Mr. Alfred Fleischman, respecting a matter of dispute between himself and Mr. Wallis. A report on the subject was brought before the last meeting of the Committee of Council; and judgment thereon was passed by the Committee. It is therefore impossible for us to reopen the matter in our pages; especially as the Report of the Committee of Council informs us, and Mr. Fleischmann himself admits, that he refused to attend a meeting of the judges who, with his consent, had been nominated by the Association to decide on the dispute, and consequently allowed judgment to go against himself by default. If Mr. Fleischmann is determined on reopening the subject, his proper course will be to apply to the Committee of Council.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. GRAILY HEWITT; Mr. A. B. STEELE; Dr. R. W. FALCONER; Mr. J. KENT SPENDER; Mr. SPENCER WELLS; Mr. T. M. STONE; Dr. CIACCIO; Dr. R. B. GRINDROD; Mr. R. DUNN; Mr. INGLEBY; Mr. ALBERT NAPPER; Dr. BUDD; Mr. HIGGINBOTTOM; Dr. INMAN; Mr. J. F. NICHOLSON; Dr. LATHAM; Dr. J. D. HEATON; Dr. T. HILLIER; Mr. R. GRIFFIN; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; Dr. F. J. BROWN; Mr. J. RHODES; Mr. T. HUNT; Mr. J. APPLEYE; Mr. J. SMEDLEY; and Dr. BOYCOTT.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Just published, 13 Lithographic Plates, cloth, 10s.

The Diseases of the Prostate,
their PATHOLOGY and TREATMENT; comprising the Second Edition of "The Enlarged Prostate", and the Jacksonian Prize Essay of the Royal College of Surgeons for 1860. By HENRY THOMPSON, F.R.C.S., Assistant-Surgeon to University College Hospital.

JOHN CHURCHILL, New Burlington Street.

Fifth Edition, just published, price 2s. 6d., by post for 32 stamps,
A Guide to the Treatment of
DISEASES OF THE SKIN; for the Use of the Student and General Practitioner. By THOMAS HUNT, Surgeon to the Western Dispensary for Diseases of the Skin. This edition contains a Chapter on the TURKISH BATH.
London: T. RICHARDS, 37, Great Queen Street.

Now ready, pp. 450, price 8s. 6d.
Urine, Urinary Deposits, and
CALCULI. By LIONEL S. BEALE, M.B., F.R.S., Physician to King's College Hospital. Including the Chemical and Microscopical Examination of Deposits, the Volumetric Process of Analysis, Tables for the Examination of Urine, etc. etc.
London: JOHN CHURCHILL.

SIR J. E. TENNENT'S NEW WORK OF CEYLON.
Now ready, in 1 thick vol. post 8vo, with 82 Wood Engravings from Original Drawings, price 12s. 6d. cloth.
Sketches of the Natural History
of CEYLON; with Narratives and Anecdotes illustrative of the Habits and Instincts of the Mammalia, Birds, Reptiles, Fishes, Insects, etc., including a Monograph of the Elephant, and a Description of the modes of Capturing and Training it. By Sir J. EMERSON TENNENT, K.C.S., LL.D., etc.
London: LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMAN, and ROBERTS.