

obsolete. This supplies another striking example of the confusion into which the law on sanitary matters has drifted. It may be hoped that the action which should follow the report of the Sanitary Commission, issued at the instance of the British Medical and Social Science Associations, will not be moulded after the very defective pattern of the Sanitary and Sewage Utilisation Acts.

The other great epidemic of the year was scarlatina, of which we have already had much to say. It is here stated that the scarlatina deaths, which averaged fifty weekly in the first half of 1869, rapidly increased after midsummer, until in September they were more than two hundred a week, and in December kept the very high average of 220. The total number of deaths in London alone is stated to be 5,803. The total deaths from the disease throughout the country are estimated at not less than those in the epidemic of 1863-4, when "scarlatina destroyed in England more than 60,000 persons." A large proportion of these deaths must be ascribed to the neglect of individuals and of local authorities. Though the exact cause or first germ of the disease is still undiscovered, it is certain that it can be prevented from extending in the locality, if it cannot be immediately stamped out. Freshness of atmosphere, absence of dirt, prevention of overcrowding, pure drinking water, the isolation of the sick and their attendants from the healthy, and the thorough disinfection of premises and things: these are conditions which, if the local authorities throughout the country did their duty, would obtain everywhere. For, in Mr. Simon's words, "thoroughly to isolate the sick from intercourse with susceptible persons, and thoroughly to trap and exterminate all contagium which the bodies of the sick evolve, are the preventive feats which have to be accomplished." It is the imperative duty of legislators to provide the powers, and of the executive to carry out these measures.

In respect to vaccination, the Privy Council examined, through its inspectors, during 1869, the state of public vaccination in 1,600 vaccination districts. The sums awarded during the year to vaccinators amounted to £3,885 : 15 : 4, distributed amongst 391 public vaccinators, of whom 235 were in the first class and 156 in the second class. This shews an improvement in the public vaccination of the country; for, says Mr. Simon, whereas in 1867-8 first-class gratuities formed only 33 per cent. of the whole number of the awards, the first-class gratuities in 1869 formed 60 per cent. of the number of awards. Notwithstanding the mischievous outcry which has lately been raised against the use of humanised lymph for vaccination, nearly 14,000 applications have been made to the Government for it, including many from distant parts of the world.

The work under the Pharmacy Act has consisted in the approval of a code of consolidated and amended bye-laws, some of which greatly modify the conditions of admission to the practice of pharmacy; several additions to the schedule of provisions annexed to the Act; and the visitation of the examinations of the Pharmaceutical Society on the part of the Privy Council. "It had," says Mr. Simon, "long been a desideratum in Great Britain as regards the practice of pharmacy, that this skilled commerce, where unskilfulness means very serious danger to the public health, should only be open to persons whose qualifications for safely practising it had been tested by proper examination; and the appended reports appear to me to give ground for much public satisfaction, as shewing that the system which the Pharmacy Act of 1868 brought into operation provides adequate security to that very important effect."

HOW SCARLATINA IS SPREAD.

WE called attention last week to examples of the reckless carelessness by which scarlatina is spread, and gave examples from experience. The Rev. T. P. Ouvry of Leighton Buzzard writes to the *Times*, describing the following case in point.

"I am the incumbent of a parish where scarlet fever is now prevalent and very fatal. Straw-plaiting, in so-called 'plaiting-schools', forms the chief occupation of the children. The medical officer of the Union reports to me this morning that he finds a child suffering from scarlet fever lying in the corner of a room full of children engaged in straw plaiting. Already twenty children, out of a population of fifteen hundred, have died, and several others are not likely to recover. The law punishes people having infectious diseases for exposing themselves in streets and public places: should it not also punish parents who send their children into infected houses, and house-owners who receive children when an infectious disease is in the house?"

In order to carry out the object which we have in view—that of awaking public attention thoroughly to the extreme and incessant danger and mass of mortality arising from this negligence, it is desirable to collect and make known such instances. No doubt the etiology is

not always apparent; but in a great mass of cases, scarlatina may be directly traced to negligent exposure. We desire to collect, to publish frequently, and to make known such instances. In this way the public mind may become at last thoroughly impressed with this important truth, and the local authorities moved to vigilance. We beg the aid of our associates and readers, and ask them to search out the causes of their scarlatina cases; and, when the contagion can be clearly traced to any kind of apparent carelessness or neglect, to oblige us with brief details for publication.

PLAN OF ORGANISING THE VOLUNTEER MEDICAL FORCE.

ONE or two leading Volunteer surgeons have communicated to us their wish to take part in any steps which may be thought advisable to remedy the utter want of organisation of the Volunteer medical department, to which we last week urgently directed attention. In consequence of similar representations which we made a couple of years since on the subject of the want of organisation even for the purposes of field days, an association of Volunteer medical officers was formed, of which the machinery is still available. Dr. John Murray, the honorary secretary, is not at present in London, but will, we believe, shortly return. Meantime, we shall hope to be able to lay before the Volunteer medical officers an outline scheme for organisation, which we have asked an eminent authority to render a public service by preparing as a matter of suggestion; and we are prepared to follow up the subject, finding that the observations which we made last week have been held to open an important subject in a manner which may lead to useful results.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

MIDLAND BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of this Branch was held in the Guildhall, Lincoln, on Thursday, August 4th. About thirty members of the Association were present.

A *Vote of Thanks* was unanimously accorded to T. W. Benfield, Esq., for the ability with which he had filled the office of President during the year.

The *President-elect*, Dr. MITCHINSON, took the chair.

The members of the Council and the Branch Secretaries were re-elected.

New Members.—Dr. G. W. Lowe (Lincoln) and Mr. Bower (Methringham) were elected members of the Association.

President's Address.—The PRESIDENT delivered an address, in which he mentioned the advantages the profession derived from the Association. He called the attention of the members to the unsatisfactory Medical Bill which had passed the House of Lords, but was withdrawn in consequence of the determined opposition of the members of the Association and profession at large. He touched upon the progress of medicine during the year, the subject of medical relief in our public institutions, the Contagious Diseases Act, and the loss the profession had sustained in the deaths of Simpson, Syme, Clark, Copland, and Von Graefe.

Papers, etc.—The following papers were read.

1. Dr. MORRIS (Spalding): The Use of the Turkish Bath in Albuminuria.

2. Mr. BROADBENT (Cottingham): The Treatment of Puerperal Convulsions. He strongly advocated bleeding and speedy delivery.

3. Mr. CRAVEN (Hull): Lithotomy and Lithotripsy. Mr. Craven exhibited nearly one hundred illustrations of vesical calculi removed by his late father and himself.

4. Mr. THOMPSON (Bellinghay) considered that deligation of the umbilical cord at parturition was a physiological error. It was his practice not to apply any ligature; and he never had any hæmorrhage. Most of the members said that they should consider themselves culpable, in case of any accident, if they did not tie the cord.

5. Mr. SYMPSON read a case of Resection of the Os Calcis, and showed the patient.

6. Mr. SYMPSON also showed a female whose Knee-joint he excised many years ago. This was considered a remarkably satisfactory case.

Next Annual Meeting.—It was resolved that the next annual meeting be held at Derby; and that S. W. Fearn, Esq., be the President-elect.

Dinner.—The members afterwards dined at the Great Northern Hotel, where they were joined by the Mayor and other gentlemen.

MEDICAL NEWS.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

WE regret to learn that the Queen still suffers at times severely. The cares and labours incident to her exalted position are at present increased by personal anxiety for the safety of many nearly related to her Majesty: the Prince Consort's only brother and the husbands of two of the Queen's daughters are in the German army at the seat of war. These causes combine to inflict suffering on a nervous system at all times most sensitive to worry and anxiety. Travelling under arrangements so careful as her Majesty does, the physical fatigue of a journey to Scotland is trifling, while the benefit her Majesty experiences from the cool pure air and quiet of her Highland home is always great and decided.

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL DISORGANISATION.

WE cannot but think that considerable importance should be attached to the total and entire absence of any organisation of the medical department of the Volunteer force, that is, if there is the slightest reason to suppose that the Volunteer force may ever be called upon to fight. To reduce the matter to its most elementary form, fighting with fire-arms cannot take place without wounds being inflicted. It is obvious that some organisation is needed for carrying off and attending to the great necessities of the wounded. At present there are absolutely none. That is short and clear: it accurately expresses the fact.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—
BRIGHTON AND HOVE DISPENSARY—Resident Medical Officer and Dispenser for the Western Branch: applications, Sept. 5th; election, Oct. 4th; duties, Nov. 1st.
CHESHIRE LUNATIC ASYLUM, Upton—Assistant Medical Officer: applications, Sept. 1st.
CITY DISPENSARY, Watling Street—Physician: applications, Sept. 10th; Committee, 12th.
CLAYTON HOSPITAL AND WAKEFIELD GENERAL DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon: applications, 29th.
CLOCHER UNION, co. Tyrone—Medical Officer for the Augnacloy Dispensary District.
DERBYSHIRE GENERAL INFIRMARY, Derby—Compounder: applications, August 27th; duties, Sept. 20th.
GLOUCESTERSHIRE LUNATIC ASYLUM, near Gloucester—Two Assistant Medical Officers: applications, Sept. 5th.
HOLLINGBOURN UNION, Kent—Medical Officer for the Lenham District: applications, 30th; election, Sept. 15th.
HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Brompton—Resident Clinical Assistant: applications, Sept. 3rd; Medical Committee, 5th.
JERSEY GENERAL DISPENSARY—Resident Visiting and Dispensing Officer: duties, October 1st.
LEEDS PUBLIC DISPENSARY—Physician.
MALE LOCK HOSPITAL, Dean Street, Soho—House-Surgeon: applications, Sept. 5th.
METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL, Devonshire Square—Surgeon: applications, Sept. 5th.
NORTH RIDING INFIRMARY, Middlesbrough-on-Tees—House-Surgeon: applications, Sept. 1st; election, October 6th.
QUEEN'S COLLEGE, Birmingham—Medical Tutor and Demonstrator of Anatomy: applications, 27th.
ST. GEORGE DISPENSARY, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square—Physician-Accoucheur: applications, 30th.
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, Paddington—Dental Surgeon.
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, Manchester—Medical Officer for Out-Patients: applications, Sept. 30th.
ST. PANCRAS, Middlesex—Medical Officer for the Schools at Leavesden, Herts: applications, 27th; election, 31st.
SHERBORNE UNION, Dorset—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the North West District: applications, Sept. 14th; election, 22nd.
STOKE-UPON-TRENT UNION, Staffordshire—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Hanley District: applications, 30th; election, 31st.
SUSSEX LUNATIC ASYLUM, Hayward's Heath—Assistant Medical Officer: applications, Sept. 3rd.
SWANSEA HOSPITAL—Medical Officer for Out-door Patients: applications, Aug. 31st; election, Sept. 2nd.
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN—Three Examiners for Graduation in Medicine: applications, Oct. 1st.
UNST, Shetland—Parochial Medical Officer.
UTTOXETER—Certifying Factory Surgeon.
UTTOXETER UNION—Medical Officer for the Rokester District.
VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Queen's Road, Chelsea—Resident Clinical Assistant.
WESTHAMNETT UNION, Sussex—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator: applications, Sept. 1st; election, 5th.
YORK COUNTY HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon: applications, 27th.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Metropolitan 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.—National Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Free, 2 P.M.
WEDNESDAY.....St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Mary's, 1.15 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, 2.30 P.M.—Cancer Hospital, Brompton, 3 P.M.—King's College, 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, 2 P.M.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.—Hospital for Women, 9.30 A.M.

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.

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.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

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

WE have to express our thanks for their communications to Dr. Harling, Dr. H. W. Rumsey, Dr. Maudsley, Mr. Thomas Bryant, Mr. Hills, Mr. Wheelhouse, Dr. Meadows, Dr. Embleton, Dr. Sells, etc.

J. B. can obtain information regarding the army and navy medical examinations by applying to the heads of the respective departments.

AN ASSOCIATE (Truro).—We do not think the proceeding dignified or advisable; but, as it was brought by its very nature under the notice of the profession and the profession only, every one will have formed his own opinion; and we believe that the injudicious proceeding has brought its own penalty. There are reasons we should abstain from taking any special notice of it. It was probably an error of judgment on the part of a really well meaning and hard working man.

WE regret to be compelled, by pressure on our space consequent on the length of the report of the annual meeting at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to postpone several communications.

WE are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest:—The Indian Medical Gazette, July 25th; The New York Medical Gazette, August 6th; The Parochial Critic, August 24th; The New York Medical Record, August 11th; The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, August 11th; The Madras Mail, June 13th; The Gardeners' Chronicle, August 20th; The Poor-Law Chronicle, August 16th; The Shield, August 15th; The South London Journal, August 13th; The Alliance News, August 13th; etc.

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

Mr. Hulke, London; Dr. Harley, London; An Observer; J. E. X., Aldershot; Mr. P. H. Holland, London; Dr. H. Clothier, Haslemere; Mrs. M. Summers, Wolverhampton; Mr. J. P. Badley, Dublin; Mr. J. Tilly, London; Dr. Oppert, Hamburg; Mr. S. Chater, London; An Eye of a Needle; Mr. C. S. Redmond, Shrewsbury; A Guardian of the Hollingbourne Union; Mr. Lawson Tait, Wakefield; Dr. C. D. H. Drury, Pullam St. Mary; Dr. Smith, London; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London; etc.

LETTERS, ETC. (with enclosures) from:—

Dr. T. Laycock, Edinburgh; Dr. Andrew Clark, London; Dr. Hyde Salter, London; Dr. Dixon, Sunderland; Mr. D. Stone, Manchester; Dr. Maudsley, London; Dr. Harling, London; Mr. T. H. Hills, London; Mr. T. Watkin Williams, Birmingham; Mr. C. H. Voelter, London; Dr. Meadows, London; Mr. Husband, York; Mr. Longmore, Netley; Mr. T. Bryant, London; Mr. A. B. Steele, Liverpool; Dr. Embleton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. Wheelhouse, Leeds; Dr. Sell, New York; Dr. Rumsey, Cheltenham; Dr. Paul, London; The Registrar-General of England; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; The Registrar of the Medical Society of London; Dr. Winn, London; Dr. T. Dickson, London; Mr. R. Davy, London; Mr. R. W. Foss, Stockton-on-Tees; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Miss Wolstenholme, Congleton; Dr. C. B. Taylor, Nottingham; Dr. Brandes, Aix-la-Chapelle; Dr. De Geisse, Bad Ems, Prussia; Dr. Halford, Melbourne; Dr. V. Ash, Truro; Mr. J. C. Costin, Market Harborough; Mrs. M. A. Baines, London; M.D.; Mr. J. Sewill, Caterham Valley; Mr. S. C. Noble, Kendal; Dr. Ransome, Manchester; Dr. Chadwick, Leeds; Dr. Morris, Spalding; Dr. Paget, Cambridge; Dr. Acland, Oxford; etc.