

an ounce and a quarter. The wounds caused by the Chassepot balls are smaller than those caused by the Prussian rifles. The latter shivers the bone to a greater extent than the former; the difference of form explains this sufficiently, the Chassepot bullet being nearly cylindrical, and the Prussian somewhat egg-shaped. The material for dressing the wounds in general use is charpie, which perhaps is inferior to the excellent English lint, but much cheaper, because it is given gratis in quantity which would be sufficient for a thirty years' war. For cleaning the wounds the "*irrigateur* of Esmarch" is used in all hospitals. The water used is generally warm; and to it is added a little carbolic acid or a solution of hypermanganate of potash. To clean deep wounds sufficiently we insert the caoutchouc points of Windler, which are very flexible and soft, and into which the point of the tube fastened to the *irrigateur* enters easily. Sponges are never used for the cleaning of wounds. After the wounds are well cleaned with the *irrigateur*, we dry them well with clean charpie, and then cover them with charpie moistened with carbolic acid solution; a compress fastened by a linen bandage finishes the dressing. Charpie and compresses are never used twice; the bandages are washed in a solution of chloride of zinc. In most cases one dressing in twenty-four hours is quite sufficient; a gunshot-wound is always combined with contusion, and as such is not to be disturbed too often. To ease the flow of the secretions, a suitable position, drainage, incisions, etc., are properly applied. When the parts surrounding a wound are inflamed, tender, and swollen, I use cold water dressings in preference to any kind of poultices; they are always at hand, are clean, and have at least as good an effect as cataplasms, if not better. Great care is bestowed on good diet. "*La diète est une arme meurtrière*," says Follin. I do not think that I recommend anything new in advising, not an antiphlogistic, but a restorative, diet for nearly all the wounded soldiers who are exhausted for want of food, fatigue, mental shock, and bodily suffering, as well as by great losses of blood. Under this treatment wounds do well, and far better than when smeared over with all kinds of plaster, lotions, embrocations, etc. Caustics are not often necessary when carbolic acid is applied; in a few cases, where granulations grew too exuberantly and had a pale watery look, an energetic application of quicklime mixed with vegetable charcoal made a satisfactory change. These are, however, well known surgical proceedings; and I do not know anything worth mentioning as regards the treatment of flesh-wounds.

In my next letter I will describe the treatment of complicated wounds in our hospitals.

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL DINNERS, Etc.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

THE annual old students' dinner was held in the great hall of the Hospital on Monday, Dr. Paget of Cambridge in the chair. Upwards of one hundred old students and friends of the Hospital were present, amongst whom were Sir Trevor Lawrence, Professor Humphry of Cambridge, Dr. Burrows, Dr. Bell (Principal of Christ's Hospital), and the members of the staff. After the usual loyal toasts, Dr. Paget proposed the toast of the evening, "Prosperity to the Medical College," which was responded to by Dr. Black. The toast of "The Visitors and Guests" was proposed by Mr. James Paget and responded to by Dr. Humphry; that of "The President" by Dr. Burrows. The meeting was in every way a success.

THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL COLLEGE DINNER.

ABOUT eighty old pupils and friends of the Middlesex Hospital Medical College dined together at St. James's Hall on Monday evening, after the excellent address of Dr. Cayley. Professor Flower, F.R.S., presided. After the usual loyal toasts, the chairman, in proposing that of the Army, Navy, and Volunteers, referred to the increased attention now bestowed in war on the sick and wounded, as exemplified in the present war. The toast of the evening, "The Middlesex Hospital Medical College," was proposed from the chair, coupled with the name of Mr. De Morgan, and received very warmly. Amongst the other toasts were those of "Professor Flower," who responded in an excellent speech, "Dr. Cayley," "Mr. Ross and the Governors of the Hospital." The meeting altogether passed off most successfully.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

THE members of the staff and the old and present students of this School dined together at Willis's Rooms on the evening of Saturday, October 1st, Dr. Sibson taking the chair upon the occasion. The dinner was largely attended, and the meeting of old friends and associates most agreeable and successful. The presence of a large number of

former students, now engaged in professional work in different parts of the country, afforded a gratifying proof that the pleasant recollection of old times still remained fresh in their memories. Among the company present were Mr. Lane, Dr. Handfield Jones, F.R.S., Dr. Sieveking, Dr. Morgan of Manchester, Mr. Mivart, F.R.S., and others well known in the world of science and of medicine.

WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

AFTER the admirable Introductory Address given by Dr. Sturges, the old students and friends of the Medical College were entertained at a *conversazione* by the medical officers. A number of surgical instruments and other objects of interest were exhibited. There was a good attendance of old pupils.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Royal Clarence Hotel, Bridgwater, on Thursday, October 13th, at 5 P.M.; J. CORNWALL, Esq., of Ashcott, President, will be 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 13th, 1870.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE first general meeting of the Session (1870-1871) will be held at the Midland Institute, on Thursday, October 13th, at 3 P.M.; THOMAS UNDERHILL, Esq., President, in the Chair.

T. H. BARTLEET, *Honorary Secretary*.

Birmingham, September 27th, 1870.

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE fourteenth autumnal meeting of the above Branch will be held at Stony Stratford, Bucks, on Tuesday, October 18th.

Gentlemen who intend reading papers or cases, are requested to furnish the names or titles, as early as possible, to

J. M. BRYAN, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.

Northampton, September 20th, 1870.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Keswick Hotel, Keswick, on Wednesday, October 19th, 1870, at 1 P.M. THOMAS F. P'ANSON, M.D., of Whitehaven, President of the Branch, will take the Chair.

Gentlemen intending to read papers, or be present at the meeting, will greatly facilitate arrangements by communicating with the Secretary without delay.

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

Carlisle, September 28th, 1870.

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 Thursday, October 20th, at 2 P.M. President for 1869-70, Dr. OAKLEY; President-elect for 1870-71, J. D. HARRIES, Esq.

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: J. D. Harries, Esq., in the Chair.

SAMUEL WOOD, F.R.C.S., *Honorary Secretary*.

Shrewsbury, September 26th, 1870.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE next meeting of the above Branch will be held at the White Hart Inn, Reigate, on Thursday, October 20th. Dr. HOLMAN will take the Chair at 4 P.M.

Papers, etc., are promised by Dr. Murray, Dr. Holman, Dr. Carpenter, and the Honorary Secretary.

HENRY T. LANCHESTER, M.D., *Hon. Secretary*.

Croydon, October 3rd, 1870.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE first meeting of the above Branch for the session, will be held on October 27th, at the Royal Hotel, College Green, Bristol.

The following papers are expected. 1. The Position of Medical Men receiving Resident Nervous Patients. By Horace Swete, M.D.—2. Case of Recovery from General Dropsy. By Charles Steele, Esq.—3. Case of Pyelitis from Injury. By R. W. Tibbits, M.B.—4. The Treatment of Ulcers by Transplantation of Skin. By Nelson C. Dobson, Esq.
EDMUND C. BOARD, *Honorary Secretary*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ORIGIN OF SPECIFIC DISEASES.

SIR,—In Professor Huxley's address at the British Association on the subject of spontaneous generation, he rightly includes in the large field of nature over which he casts his eye some matters pertaining to pathology. His own opinion clearly leans towards the old and prevalent doctrine, *Omne vivum ex vivo*; and he endorses by the weight of his name the experiments of Pasteur and his followers. Knowing what the normal mode of production is, he would leave the burden of proof of the spontaneous production of living matter with his opponents; and I think we may be well satisfied to witness it in the hands of such an able "abiogenist" as Dr. Bastian. Similar arguments the professor would apply to the case of the contagious or specific diseases; and accordingly the *onus probandi* lies with those who believe that such affections can arise *sui generis*. I cannot at this moment lay my hands on the writings of any author who distinctly asserts the truth of the doctrine; but, judging from the observations of many in our profession, it might be thought that such does extensively prevail. I believe, as regards typhus fever, that an opinion of its spontaneous origin from overcrowding does exist largely amongst medical men; and, as regards scarlatina, the importance attached to bad drainage at Guildford and elsewhere would lead to the belief that not a few in the profession consider that some of the ordinary circumstances around us are sufficient to develop it. If I remember rightly, this was asserted in a public paper by a surgeon at Croydon, who stated that he had seen the disease arise in an isolated cottage, and induced by a neighbouring cesspool or dunghill. Even syphilis, I have heard stated by two gentlemen examined at the Admiralty Committee, will spring up spontaneously from promiscuous sexual intercourse. I do not know that any medical man has assented to the strongly expressed opinion of Miss Nightingale that small-pox can arise from bad sanitary arrangements.*

Let us see what are the arguments for the existence of a specific poison in this class of diseases. The term poison is used, because a person affected with a specific contagious disease has that in his system which, if transplanted, will produce in another as certain and definite effects as if the latter had swallowed an animal or a vegetable poison. At well defined periods, results are seen in the body so characteristic that the nature of the infecting cause is at once recognised. Seeing that the matter or blood from a variolous or a scarlatinal patient is capable of producing exactly the same effects in a healthy person, we must feel sure that a something having specific qualities has been conveyed from the one to the other. Whether this something will be found to consist of living germs, as Dr. Burdon Sanderson's observations tend to show, is now a question of opinion; but there are many who think that the day will shortly come when we shall be capable of seeing the typhine or choleric poison enclosed in a bottle. In the case of every weed found in a newly made garden, we believe that the seed was first implanted there; and so, from all analogy, we consider that in every instance of a specific disease a microzyme must have been introduced from an extraneous source. Dr. Huxley evidently thinks that the analogy holds good; and thus we should be content to rest upon the conviction that, in every case of so-called specific disease, the complaint has been "caught"; and, if we are not able to prove it, we ought to assume it, and let the *onus probandi* lie with those who deny it. Since all reasoning would lead us to assume the origin of living

matter from germs, we are content to believe in the commonly accepted parentage of all animal and vegetable forms which surround us. That they ever have any other origin, or can arise spontaneously, must be shown to be true by those who have reason to be not satisfied with the current opinion. So it rests with the abiogenist in our profession, or the man who believes in the spontaneous origin of scarlatina or such-like disease, to act with as much care as Dr. Bastian has done, and be sure, when he thinks he sees an example of the complaint spontaneously arising, that every possible source of contagion has been excluded. Until he shows this, the universally contagious theory must still be held. The question, then, of the spontaneous origin of the usually called specific contagious diseases, ought to be no more an open one than the more general *questio vexata* of spontaneous generation. As regards the latter, the world is content to hold a certain opinion until it be found to be false; and so in like manner the medical profession may safely hold to the idea of only one parentage of the exanthemata and other specific diseases, until facts are forthcoming to prove their spontaneous growth. If the analogy holds good (and I believe it does), between these diseases and the phenomena of animal and vegetable life, we must assume that in every instance the complaint has been "caught"; and we shall be then in a better position to discover what we understand by the influence of bad drainage and other defective sanitary arrangements.

I could have wished that Professor Huxley had not included in the question the subject of cancer, which has no analogies with the diseases to which I have been alluding. It cannot be inoculated; it does not run a definite or specific course; and, indeed, has no qualities which deserve it to be considered as foreign to the organism of the body. It is known that a variety of morbid growths may be produced in the tissues; and that, between the one which is styled cancer and that which is identical with healthy material, all grades may exist. They are but modifications of normal tissues, show only altered nutrition, and can by no means be considered as foreign to the system.

I am, etc.,
Grosvenor Street, W.

SAMUEL WILKS.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM ALLEN MILLER, M.D., F.R.S.

WE regret to learn that Dr. Miller, Professor of Chemistry in King's College, died at Liverpool, of apoplexy, on September 30th. He was born at Ipswich in 1817. At the age of 24, he was appointed assistant to the late Professor Daniell, of King's College, at whose sudden death in 1846 he succeeded to the professorship of Chemistry. He was the author of a well known and valuable treatise on Chemistry, in three volumes, and of numerous contributions to chemical science. He was a graduate in Medicine of the University of London.

AUGUSTUS WALLER, M.D., F.R.S.

DR. AUGUSTUS WALLER died at Geneva on September 18th. He held a high place among those physiologists who have enriched their science by original research. He is best known for his important contributions to the physiology of the nervous system, and especially for the introduction of a new method of investigation applicable to various important objects of neurological inquiry, which, not only as used by himself, but in the hands of others, has tended materially to advance the knowledge of that department. We owe also to Dr. Waller original and valuable observations on various other physiological questions. In acknowledgment of his scientific labours, he twice received the Monthon Prize of the French Academy of Sciences: first, in 1852, for a research, in which he was assisted by Professor Budge, of Bonn; and again, in 1856, for experiments, exclusively his own, showing an important relation between the nutrition of nerve-fibres and their connection with nervous centres. For these and other researches in Experimental Philosophy, the Royal Society awarded him one of the royal medals for 1860. Dr. Waller began professional life as a general practitioner in Kensington, but his growing passion for original inquiry in science led him to devote himself to it entirely, and, with the exception of a short time that he was Professor of Physiology in Queen's College, Birmingham, he resided abroad, and enjoyed the intimacy of the most celebrated Continental physiologists, who thoroughly appreciated his merits. Latterly, he went to reside at Geneva, and commenced practice as a physician, still, however, continuing his physiological pursuits. He died quite suddenly in a fit of angina pectoris, to which complaint he had been for some time subject. [This notice is taken from *Nature*.]

* "I was brought up both by scientific men and ignorant women distinctly to believe that small-pox, for instance, was a thing of which there was once a first specimen in the world, which went on propagating itself in a perpetual chain of descent, just as much as that there was a first dog (or a first pair of dogs), and that small-pox would not begin itself any more than a new dog would begin without there having been a parent dog. Since then, I have seen with my eyes and smelt with my nose small-pox growing up in first specimens, either in close rooms or in overcrowded wards, where it could not by any possibility have been 'caught', but must have begun. Nay, more, I have seen diseases begin, grow up, and pass into one another. Now dogs do not pass into cats."—*Notes on Nursing*.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

ANATOMY AND HISTOLOGY.—The Professor of Anatomy gives notice that the Lectures on Practical Anatomy (the human skeleton) will commence in the Old Anatomical Schools on Wednesday, October 12th, at 1 P.M., and will be continued daily.—The Lectures on Anatomy and Physiology will commence in the New Museums on Thursday, October 20th, at 1 P.M., and be continued on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at the same hour.—Instruction in Practical Histology will be given in the Old Anatomical Schools on Saturdays, at 11.30, commencing on October 20th.—Microscopical Demonstrations will be given in the Old Anatomical Museum on Mondays, at 6 P.M., commencing on October 30th.

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received their certificates to practise, on Thursday, September 29th, 1870.

Chittenden, Charles Peirce Downey, Lee Park, S.E.
Collier, William Henry, Sheffield
Greaves, William, Great Easton, Leicestershire
Newman, Ashwin Conway, Cheltenham

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

Atkinson, Walter Mark, Charing Cross Hospital
Hartridge, Gustavus, King's College
Wall, Abiathar, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Winterbottom, Augustus, St. George's Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL, Cambridge—Surgeon.
BALLINA UNION, co. Mayo—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc.: 12th.
BIRMINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL—Resident Medical Officer: applications, Oct. 27th.
BLYTHING UNION, Suffolk—Medical Officer for District No. 8.
BOGNOR, Sussex—Surgeon to the Coast-Guard.
BRIGHTON and HOVE DISPENSARY—Physician for the Western Branch.
DELTING, Shetland—Parochial Medical Officer.
DONEGAL LUNATIC ASYLUM, Letterkenny—Consulting and Visiting Physician: 12th.
DORSET COUNTY HOSPITAL, Dorchester—House-Surgeon: applications, 10th; election, Nov. 5th.
EAST DISPENSARY, Liverpool—Resident House-Surgeon.
GREAT OUSEBURN UNION, Yorkshire—Medical Officer for the Green Hamerton District.
HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, Soho Square—House-Physician: applications, 21st.
KING'S COLLEGE, London—Professor of Chemistry.
LEICESTER PROVIDENT DISPENSARY—Medical Officer: applications, 17th; election, 20th.
MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL—Assistant-Physician.
MORPETH DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon: applications, Nov. 25th; election, Dec. 9th.
ONGAR UNION, Essex—Medical Officer for District No. 2.
QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, Birmingham—Resident Surgeon: applications, 20th.
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, Rochester—Assistant Surgeon: 13th.
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL and DISPENSARY FOR DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, Manchester—Resident Medical Officer.
ST. SAVIOUR'S UNION, Surrey—Two District Medical Officers: applications, Oct. 20th.
STRATTON UNION, Cornwall—Medical Officer for District No. 2.
TOWER HAMLETS DISPENSARY—Medical Resident Officer: applications, 10th; election, 10th.
WEST KENT GENERAL HOSPITAL, Maidstone—House-Surgeon.
WHITECHAPEL UNION—Resident Medical Officer at the Workhouse: applications, 10th; election, 11th.
WISBEACH UNION, Cambridgeshire—Medical Officer for one Division of the Wisbeach St. Mary District.
WORCESTER AMALGAMATED FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' MEDICAL ASSOCIATION—Medical Officer: applications, 11th; vacancy, Christmas.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Names marked with an asterisk are those of Members of the Association.

***PEARCE, W. H., Esq.**, appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Sheffield School of Medicine.
***SAUNDERS, Thomas Dudley, Esq.**, appointed Medical Officer to the Fourth District of the West Ashford Union, *vice* John Chapman, Esq., resigned.
THORPE, G. E. K., Esq., appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Sheffield School of Medicine.

THE Lord Bishop of Lichfield will preach the anniversary sermon in aid of the funds of the Derbyshire General Infirmary, Derby, on the 27th instant.

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, 1.30 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1 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, 1 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.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

FRIDAY—Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. John Harley, "A Case of Injury to the Liver"; Mr. Spencer Watson, "Four Cases of Parenchymatous Keratitis associated with Acute Rheumatism"; Dr. John Ogle, "A Case of Tetanus treated with Ice and Belladonna"; and other papers.

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.

ENGLISH WATERING-PLACES.

DR. J. MACPHERSON (Curzon Street).—There is a remarkable deficiency of accurate information on the subject of English watering-places, and the materials at hand are singularly defective. In the absence of local information from trustworthy medical sources, we have not attempted to do much more at present than analyse and explain existing statistics, and demonstrate the need of better. The appeal which was made in our columns to members and associates at watering-places for information has not been responded to.

MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

REFERRING to the recent comments in the JOURNAL on a correspondence in which he took part, Mr. G. P. Heyward of Englefield Green writes a letter in which he says: "I submit for your further consideration—first, whether the family attendant is bound, against the will of the patient, to surrender a case which, under pressure of a serious emergency, a rival practitioner has been invoked to treat; and, again, whether a gentleman who ostentatiously parades an Irish title of M.D., and not possessing the diploma of the Apothecaries' Company (England), is justified, according to your code, in encroaching upon the domain of the legally qualified practitioner, and then, forsooth, babbling of breaches of 'medical etiquette'."

* * I. Any practitioner, called in a serious emergency to treat a patient, should surrender the case to the usual family attendant, unless specially requested by the patient or the friends to continue his attendance; and he should do nothing to obtain the expression of such a wish. This clearly results from the ordinary rules of ethics to which we have adverted.

II. An Irish diploma of M.D. confers a full legal title to practise in any part of the United Kingdom, and is not to be spoken of with disrespect. It clearly entitles its owner to discuss questions of etiquette as much as any other medical title whatever.

THE First Commissioner of Works gives notice that he intends to distribute this autumn, amongst the working classes and poor of London, the surplus bedding-out plants in Battersea, Hyde, and other Parks. An opportunity is thus afforded for the Committees of the various London Hospitals to make application for a share of the spoil.

METHYLATED SPIRIT FOR EXTERNAL USE.

SIR,—In the JOURNAL of August 20th, some one inquired whether it was permitted to use methylated spirit in compounding liniments and other applications for external use. From a considerable observation, I am persuaded that this spirit is far preferable for such uses than the pure spirit. Wood-spirit has in itself soothing and stimulating properties. Its addition to spirits of wine increases the solvent power of the spirit; so that iodine, camphor, and other components of liniments, are much more readily dissolved in methylated spirit. One objection to the wood-spirit is, that it is very irritating to the eyes. While applications containing it are used, the head should be averted or the eyes should be closed, to avoid the sharp stinging pain which is caused by its action on the conjunctiva. I find all liniments much more efficacious when made with the methylated spirit.

Marlborough, September 1870.

I am, etc., WALTER FERGUS, M.D.

POSTAGE OF THE JOURNAL.—In consequence of the alterations in the rates of postage and conditions of transmission of newspapers, the postage of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* will be one halfpenny; which must be paid each time the *JOURNAL* is retransmitted by post. In order to retain the privileges of a newspaper, the *JOURNAL* must not be stitched.

A CASE OF PROFESSIONAL EQUITY.

SIR,—I venture to state a case to you, and shall, in the interest of the profession as well as of myself, feel greatly obliged by your opinion thereon.

October 1870.

I am, etc.,

A.

A surgeon, X., takes Y. into partnership, and subsequently disposes of the whole practice to Y. for a sum agreed upon. X. enters into an agreement, whereby he binds himself with Y., his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, not to practise within four miles of the town, under a heavy penalty.—Y. takes into partnership Z.; and, after a few months, Y. retires from the practice, Z. giving a sum for Y.'s share in the stock-in-trade, moneys, and effects; Y. entering into an agreement not to practise in the town for six months.—About four years after X. had retired from the business, he suddenly returns to the town, and commences to practise within a quarter of a mile from his old place of business.—Z. protests against the return of X. to practice, but the only reply that X. gives is virtually "go to law".—Z. has not the inclination to spend money in proving what is legally expressed in documents, the conditions of which, he considers, ought to be honourably observed.

* * We think that X. is in the wrong. He has perhaps overlooked the comprehensive nature of the clause restraining him from practice; which mentions not only Y. himself, but his "executors, administrators, and assigns". Z., having purchased the practice of Y., is his assign. Legal proceedings it would be well to avoid. Cannot some satisfactory arrangement be come to between X. and Z.; such as permission for X. to practise on condition of paying a portion of the penalty, to be agreed on mutually, as final compensation? Unless something of this kind be done, we do not see how X. can honourably return to practise in the town.

J. B. (St. Thomas's Hospital.)—Inquire of Mr. H. Searle, of 170, New Kent Road, who has vacancies for two pupils. We should say, from our knowledge of that gentleman, that you will find it a very comfortable home.

DISTRESS CAUSED BY THE WAR: AN APPEAL.

The following letter has lately appeared in a contemporary.

"Sir,—It has come to my knowledge that a physician (whose name, for obvious reasons, I would rather not publish, but one who has in his day done much for the advancement of medical science) is in great distress at this moment, in consequence of the disastrous war now raging on the Continent. Ill-health compelled him some time ago to relinquish practice, and his wife has been receiving pupils in France. She and her husband are now locked up in a small town not far from Paris, into which the Prussians are daily expected to enter. Dr. and Mrs. are the only English left in the place, and they are scarcely able to obtain the commonest necessities of life. The school was to commence last Monday, and the pupils, each bringing money with her, would have provided the means requisite for maintaining the establishment till Christmas. As it is, I can see nothing but ruin and beggary before my poor friends, unless an effort is made to save them. If their landlord and the few tradesmen left were assured that they had means to pay, they might get on somehow for a while; but if not, they must starve. Surely there will not be wanting among the members of our profession some to help a poor brother in such distress.

"I will commence a subscription with £5; and my friend, Dr. Stocker, has offered a similar sum. Any subscriptions sent to me, or paid into my account at Messrs. Coutts', for the O. W. Fund, will be thankfully acknowledged.

I am, etc.,

JOSEPH S. LAVIES.

"11, Warwick Square, S.W., September 16th, 1870."

* * * The gentleman referred to in the preceding letter was some years ago an active and highly esteemed officer of one of the Branches of the British Medical Association. Subscriptions will be received by Dr. A. Henry, 16, Great Coram Street, W.C.; or by Mr. T. Richards, at the office of the British Medical Journal.

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 SULPHOCARBOLATES AND OTHER ANTISEPTICS.

SIR,—The report of the discussion upon my paper at the late meeting at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which appears in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* for September 17th, is capable of causing an impression which I am desirous to correct. I am reported to have said: "Dr. Wiltshire had spoken of another antiseptic; but highly valuable as it might be, it could hardly take the place of the sulphocarbols." It might be inferred that I claimed for the sulphocarbols such a position *par excellence* among antiseptics of all kinds and under all conditions as I never intended. The antiseptic alluded to by Dr. Wiltshire in the course of his valuable remarks, was the chloride of aluminium, long known as such, but lately more prominently advocated by Mr. John Gamgee. That this substance is a valuable means of preventing putrefaction, there can be no doubt; though the researches of Dr. Angus Smith seem to show that it holds a lower place than common salt. (*Disinfectants and Disinfection*, page 97.) This, however, was not the question. I quite agree that the chloride of aluminium is a far more potent direct antiseptic than are the sulphocarbols. My object in employing those agents was to introduce by means of an extremely soluble salt a powerful factor, carbolic acid, which might act antiseptically on the body. One of the virtues claimed for the chloride of aluminium is its great astringency. This is just the faculty which would prevent its own absorption. While, therefore, it would be highly valuable for the local and direct treatment of putrescible material, it would not accomplish that which I believe the sulphocarbols do—the diffusion into the blood and the projection throughout the system of a substance capable of staying those processes of decomposition which accompany disease.

I am, etc.,

29, Duncan Terrace, September 20th, 1870.

A. ERNEST SANSON.

NOTICE.—It is requested that all Letters, etc., intended for the Editor or the Publisher of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* be addressed solely to the Office, 37, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.

DR. RUMSEY'S ADDRESS.

SIR,—There is one remark made by Dr. Rumsey in his excellent Address on Public Medicine that I think requires some comment. It is as follows:—"We are often tempted, perhaps unfairly, to apply the term 'quackery' to the practice of medical novelties or heresies. Now, I would suggest that the utmost freedom of judgment and action in the selection of means for the prevention or relief of sickness may be allowed by the authorities, and may be enjoyed by members of the profession, without incurring an unmerited or degrading nickname. There are quacks, as regards their conduct, who may be most orthodox as regards their theories of medicine. On the other hand, there are learned medical sectarians, to my knowledge, who, in the exercise of their calling, are honourable and upright."

In my opinion, Dr. Rumsey is here taking a mistaken view of "quackery". No individual member of the profession or collective corporation can object to every and any latitude of opinion and practice of an art on the part of another practitioner; but what we can object to is the assumption of title and superior wisdom of the quacks themselves. This very latitude should be the ground of opposition to quackery in general; for when a man is free to choose from all the resources of science what weapons he prefers in his battle with disease and death, what need is there for him to assume other title than the one given him by his College, the honour of which he has sworn to maintain? Let us take a homeopathic practitioner as an example. Dr. Rumsey might cite him as a learned medical sectarian, honourable and upright in his calling; but at the outset his position belies him; he does, in fact, assert before the public at large, to his clients in particular, that his College or University education is unsound and false, and that, contrary to the folly of all his *confrères* who are content with the title and position there bestowed upon them, he, in his superior wisdom, must assume other title and other doctrine and other practice. Now what could better remedy this state of things than one uniform state title to practise? Here it could be made law that, to assume other distinctions than the one granted, or such honorary ones as might be superadded by Schools or Universities, should be punishable by withdrawal from the Register of licensed practitioners: whereas now what is every body's business is no body's business, and every unprofessional conduct and assumption of title goes unchecked. We have members of the Apothecaries' Company keeping open shops, and selling treacle and bees-wax; and many of the members of the Royal College of Surgeons have set up as herbalists, their front windows looking like a market-gardener's seed warehouse, not to mention a hundred other such discrepancies. How can we, under such circumstances, be respected as a body, notwithstanding the high moral and professional tone of our leading men? Neither are these free from blame, quietly to look on and see such turpitude in operation unchecked and unchallenged. May that glorious day soon arrive when we shall show our unbroken front to friend and foe, and attain to the simple necessity of having a medical man to attend to and prescribe for his patient, and a druggist to compound his nostrum; and of course a physician to consult.

Birmingham, September 1870

I am, etc., PERCY LESLIE, M.D.

"CRAMP" IN DUCKS.

SIR,—The following curious fact may be interesting to some of your country members. An acquaintance of mine and his wife, while walking round a farm-yard, were shown some young ducks (seven or eight in number) suffering from the "cramp": they were apparently dying, all the usual methods of restoration having failed. The lady, having a small bottle of chloroform in her pocket, "for a joke" administered some in the usual way on her pocket-handkerchief. When the duck was under the influence of the drug, its legs were straightened. She did the same to all the ducks; and, after a short time, they gradually recovered from the effects of the chloroform: no symptoms of "cramp" have since appeared, and the ducks are perfectly healthy. This occurred about a month ago.

I am, etc.,

T. DUDLEY SAUNDERS.

Smarden, Kent, September 26th, 1870.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest:—The Indian Medical Gazette, Sept. 5th; The New York Medical Gazette, Sept. 17th; The Parochial Critic, Oct. 6th; The New York Medical Record, Sept. 22nd; The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Sept. 22nd; The Madras Mail, July 25th; The Shield, Oct. 1st; The Birmingham Daily Post, Oct. 3rd; etc.

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

Dr. Philpots, Poole; Dr. H. T. Lanchester, Croydon; Dr. R. Gee, Liverpool; Mr. L. H. Grindon, Manchester; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London; Dr. Kelly, Taunton; Mr. W. H. Pearce, Sheffield; Mr. C. W. Cooper, Leicester; G. H. S.; S. T.; Dr. J. Braxton Hicks, London; Dr. J. Althaus, London; Mr. Wesley, London; Dr. Cayley, London; Mr. E. C. Board, Bristol; Dr. Sansom, London; The Secretary of the Clinical Society; Dr. Geissé, Ems; Mr. T. D. Saunders, Smarden; Dr. D. Brodie, Liberton; Dr. Martin, Manchester; M.D. Edin.; Dr. Wilks, London; etc.

LETTERS, ETC. (with enclosures) from:—

Mr. Berkeley Hill, London; Mr. Wm. Fairlie Clarke, London; Dr. Protheroe Smith, London; Mr. John Wood, London; Dr. Aveling, Rochester; Dr. E. J. Tilt, London; Dr. R. T. Manson, Witton-le-Wear; Mr. Hulke, London; Dr. J. H. Bennet, London; Dr. George Johnson, London; Dr. Fleming, Birmingham; 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; Mr. Gascoyen, London; Dr. Gervis, London; Mr. E. Atkinson, Leeds; Dr. Sturges, London; Dr. J. C. Brown, Liverpool; The Medical Officers and Lecturers of the Westminster School of Medicine; Dr. W. J. Cleaver, Liverpool; Dr. C. Bader, London; Dr. A. D. Davidson, Aberdeen; The Secretary of State for India in Council; Mr. T. R. Jessop, Leeds; Mr. A. F. McGill, Leeds; Dr. Nesham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. H. G. Sutton, London; Dr. Cheadle, London; Mr. Berry, Birmingham; Dr. Mapother, Dublin; Mr. Wanklyn, London; Dr. H. C. Bastian, London; Mr. C. J. Denny, Malvern; Dr. Foster, Birmingham; Mr. Heyward, Staines; Dr. Macpherson, London; Dr. Vintras, London; Mr. Flower, Guildford; Dr. Shettle, Reading; etc.