

Dr. RUMSEY said the deputation did not contemplate advocating the Irish system in its entirety for adoption in England.

Other members of the deputation having said the same,

Mr. GÖSCHEN said that the question as to the registration of disease was one for the Government and not for his department, and he would have to ascertain the probable cost before bringing the matter to his colleagues' attention. He thought it would be undesirable to go into the matter at all until the report of the Royal Sanitary Commission had been considered by the Government.

The deputation then thanked the right hon. gentleman and withdrew.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

THE following letter has been handed to us for publication.

39, Grosvenor Street, Oct. 11th, 1870.

Dear Mr. President,—As the elections to fill three vacancies in the Court of Examiners will take place shortly, and as I am second on the list of members of Council who have not served on the Court, I wish to state that I consider it my duty to decline at present to become a candidate for election. I have been induced to adopt this course in consequence of the prominent part which I have taken in endeavouring to separate the examiners in anatomy and physiology from those in surgery, on the ground that surgeons who have never taught anatomy and physiology, or who have long ceased to do so, are not the best qualified to conduct the examinations on these subjects. The principle of the separation has since been affirmed by the Council; but, as action upon it has been deferred, a candidature on my part would be inconsistent with the object for which I have contended. I am desirous, however, of acting without prejudice to any claims I may possess to a place on the Court, as examiner in surgery, when the separation is carried out.

I am, dear Mr. President, yours faithfully,

T. B. CURLING.

Sir William Fergusson, Bart., President of the
Royal College of Surgeons.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on Tuesday, the 1st day of November, 1870, at 3 o'clock P.M. *precisely*.

* * The following resolution was passed unanimously at a meeting of the Council of the Association, held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on August 10th, 1870.

"That, in the opinion of the Council, it is of the utmost importance that the Secretaries of the Branches should attend regularly the meetings of the Committee of Council; and they recommend that the travelling expenses of the Secretaries should be paid by their respective Branches."

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, F.R.C.S., *General Secretary*.

13, Newhall Street, Birmingham, October 17th, 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*

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: PATHOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL SECTION.

THE annual meeting of the Section will be held at the Midland Institute, Birmingham, on Friday, October 28th, at 3 P.M.

BALTHAZAR W. FOSTER, M.D., } *Honorary Secretaries*.
T. VINCENT JACKSON, }

Birmingham, October 19th, 1870.

LONGEVITY.—The obituary of the *Times* of Wednesday last contained some rare illustrations of prolonged existence in four ladies and two gentlemen, whose united ages amounted to 523 years, giving an average of eighty-seven years and two months. Of the ladies, the youngest was 81 and the eldest 90 years of age. The men were 84 and 91 years of age.

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, October 13th, 1870.

Dubois, Louis Victor, Mauritius
Hardman, William, Blackpool
Newington, Frank Enefer, Tenterden

The following gentleman also on the same day passed his first professional examination.

Wright, Francis, St. Mary's Hospital
As an Assistant in compounding and dispensing medicines.
Roberts, Joseph Elliott, Great Ormond Street

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL, Cambridge—Surgeon.
AYLESBURY UNION, Bucks—Medical Officer for District No. 7.
BICESTER UNION, Oxfordshire—Medical Officer for the Piddington District.
BIRMINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL—Resident Medical Officer: applications, 27th; election, Nov. 4th.
BISHOPS STORTFORD UNION, Herts—Medical Officer for Pelham District.
BRIGHTON AND HOVE DISPENSARY—Resident House-Surgeon: applications, 31st; election, Dec. 6th; duties, Jan. 3rd.
BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY—Assistant House-Surgeon: applications, Nov. 12th.
BURY UNION, Lancashire—Medical Officer for the Pilkington District.
CARNARVON UNION—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Llanidan District: applications, Nov. 4th; election, 5th.
CASTLEREA UNION, co. Roscommon—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Frenchpark Dispensary District: 31st.
CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL—Surgeon-Dentist: applications, 26th.
DERBYSHIRE GENERAL INFIRMARY, Derby—House-Surgeon: applications, Nov. 5th.
DELTING, Shetland—Parochial Medical Officer.
DURSLEY UNION, Gloucestershire—Medical Officer for District No. 3: applications, 26th; election, 27th.
ENNISTYMON UNION, co. Clare—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Miltown-Malbay District.
FOREHOE INCORPORATION OF THE POOR, Norfolk—Medical Officer for District No. 2.
HALIFAX INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY—Assistant House-Surgeon: applications, 25th.
IRONBRIDGE DISPENSARY—Surgeon.
KING'S COLLEGE, London—Professor of Chemistry.
KINGSTON UNION, Surrey—Medical Officer for the Moulsey District.
LISMORE UNION, co. Waterford—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Ballyduff Dispensary District: 24th.
MADELEY UNION, Shropshire—Medical Officer for the Dawley District.
MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL—Assistant-Physician.
MILTOWN-MALBAY, co. Clare—Surgeon to the Constabulary.
MORPETH DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon: applications, Nov. 25th; election, Dec. 9th.
POOLE UNION, Dorset—Medical Officer for District No. 1.
QUEEN ADELAIDE DISPENSARY, Bethnal Green Road—House-Surgeon: applications, Nov. 1st; election, 4th.
QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, Birmingham—Honorary Obstetric Officer: 28th.
REETH UNION, Yorkshire—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Muker District: applications, Nov. 3rd; election, 4th.
ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road—Junior House-Surgeon: applications, 26th.
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE—Professor of Chemistry.
ST. GEORGE DISPENSARY, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square—Physician-Acoucheur: applications, 25th.
SOUTHEND, Argyleshire—Parochial Medical Officer.
STRABANE UNION, co. Tyrone—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Dunamanagh Dispensary District: 24th.
THAME UNION, Oxfordshire—Medical Officer for the Brill District.
TOTNES UNION, Devon—Medical Officers for the Dartmouth and Townstal Districts.
WIGTON UNION, Cumberland—Medical Officer for the Caldbeck District.

THE STAMFORD AND RUTLAND INFIRMARY has received a donation of £100 from the executors of the will of Mrs. Decker, in compliance with her wish expressed verbally, but not mentioned in the will.

BABY-FARMING.—At a preliminary meeting held October 14th at the chambers of Mr. W. T. Charley, M.P., 5, Crown Office Row, Temple, it was resolved to establish a society to be called the "Infant Life Protection Society," on the model of similar societies in France, having for its first object the introduction of a Bill into Parliament for the registration and supervision of nurses who receive children of others into their homes, and of the children entrusted to their care. Mr. W. T. Charley, M.P., was requested to act as treasurer *pro tem.*, to whom contributions may be sent; and Mr. J. B. Curgenvin, of 11, Craven Hill Gardens, Hyde Park, and the Rev. Oscar Thorpe, M.A., vicar of Christ Church, Camberwell, as honorary secretaries. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1st, at 3 P.M., at the rooms of the "National Association for the Promotion of Social Science," 1, Adam Street, Adelphi, and all those interested in the subject are invited to attend.

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.

MONDAY.—Medical Society of London, 8 P.M. After the casual communications, Dr. Richardson on "The Medical Aspects of the Germ-Theory."

WEDNESDAY.—Hunterian Society, 8 P.M. Adjourned discussion on Mr. Bryant's paper on Pyæmia.

FRIDAY.—Quekett Microscopical Club (University College, Gower Street), 8 P.M. Mr. J. Slade, "On the Microscopical Characters of Cannel Coal."—Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Sutton, "Two Cases of Scurvy"; Mr. Brudenell Carter, "Cases of Optic Neuritis"; with 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.

SYMPATHETIC INK.—Mr. R. Hogg, of 9, Albion Place, Hyde Park, has forwarded to us a sample of sympathetic ink for writing on post-cards, which becomes visible when the card is heated by the recipient. The fluid, unless we are mistaken, is the well-known solution of chloride of cobalt. It answers its avowed purpose very well.

WE are induced by pressure on our space to postpone the publication of the second part of "A Surgical Visit to the Seat of the War"; Review of the Sanitary Report on India; the Proceedings of the Medical Society of London; and other articles and communications.

BABY-FARMING.

1R.—There was a very humane leading article in your number of October 15th, on the fate of the unfortunate woman who has passed out of this breathing world. I agree with you heartily that there are so many men and women accessory to the act of baby-farming, that it seems hard that one should suffer for the many. In Paris, in the month of August last, although surrounded by rumours of battles, I made an inquiry into the system of nursing-out babies by Parisian mothers: and, certainly, think that on this side of the channel we may deem ourselves lucky that we have so very little of the evil to contend against.

There are several offices in Paris which undertake to furnish nurses to women who are either too lazy, or too weak, or too busy (or *think* themselves one of these three). Firstly, there is a branch of the Assistance Publique in Paris, called the *Grand Bureau*, which acts as go-between to about 2000 families and country nurses, guaranteeing to the latter, in case the parents do not pay them the small sum of about 25 francs a month (and more than half of the parents neglected to do so in 1864), the sum of 12 francs a month. The mortality of the legitimate children thus put out, and watched by certain doctors and officers, amounted from 1862-66 to 28 per cent., and of illegitimate 33 per cent. That is, nearly one-third of these nurslings die in a year. In addition to the children, put out by the means of the Assistance Publique office, there are now in Paris several other offices for farming out babies. These offices are under the surveillance only of certain medical men, paid by the income the offices receive. Nurses like these bureaux much better than they do the offices under the closer surveillance of the administration, so that far more infants are put out to nurse by means of these offices. No fewer than 9136 infants were thus put out annually, on an average of the years 1860-64. In addition to these two kinds of bureaux, there are a good number of babies given out in Paris to women under no control. These women answer to our own "baby-farmers", to use the word, which seems to have come into fashion of late. M. Husson has calculated that about 3000 infants are nursed out in this last manner. Adding these numbers together, we have about 17000 nurslings in Paris and the country, 14000 of which are sent to the country by means of the offices.

M. Broca estimated, in a speech at the Academy, that the mortality of the children put out by means of the *petits bureaux* is nearly 48 per cent. Now, statistics show us that, in thirty of the departments of France, the mortality of infants is

lower than perhaps in any other European state (is England an exception?); but, in the departments surrounding Paris, the mortality is excessive, owing to the number of nurslings put out by the Parisians. In this country, fortunately, our women have not generally begun to think it a dangerous or unfashionable thing to suckle their own infants, even in London; but I am almost afraid that, if the proposed surveillance of baby-farmers (which you, I think, advocate) take place, they may ere long begin to imitate Parisian ladies.

As to founding hospitals, of course, these are out of the question as a remedy for baby-farming. In Paris, in 1865, of 487 children abandoned younger than one year, 1516 died under the care of the Foundling Hospital. In fact, the mortality of Parisian children is excessive, since that city loses 30 per cent. of all its children under one year of age annually. There is an immensity of illegitimacy in Paris, which accounts for this great mortality. Society, naturally, cannot expect the mother of an illegitimate child to take much care of it, since it makes it almost impossible for an unmarried woman to get a living for herself, if burdened by an infant. Thus, in a private letter to myself from Dr. Leon Lefort in June last, he informs me that more than one in four of the births in Paris are illegitimate. In some of the foundling hospitals in France as many as 90 per cent. of the infants confided to their care have died in less than a year. Our foundling hospital in Guilford Street is, of course, like many other London charities, a job; and even Mr. Acton was not able to find out whose children got into that favoured spot.

You may perhaps guess from the figures which I cite, that I am not much in favour of the French plan of municipal surveillance of the industry of nursing. Such surveillance has been fairly tried, and appears to me, like the French surveillance of prostitutes, to increase the evil. The mortality of infants in France ought to be (and is, in many of the departments) very small, since there are so few children born that they are usually most tenderly loved by their parents. Thus M. Block, the able statistic of France, states that the peasantry habitually limit their families to two children. Hence, if Parisian children die so frequently, we must look to the very surveillance of nurses as one of the causes, and to the extent of illegitimacy as another. With respect to the latter, I very much question whether the non-divorce system of France is compatible with the manners of Paris; and whether the new Government would not do well, as soon as the acute disease of Prussian invasion and its sequelæ are over, to make greater provision for the divorce of unsuitable partners. Of course, the late Government was in duty bound to keep up the institutions to which it owed its existence. The republic is, however, free, I conclude, to choose that form of social arrangement which tends most to prevent crime, and Mr. Conway assures me that in Indiana, where divorce is facile, domestic crime is rare.

As to capital punishment of baby-farmers, it has been well-remarked, that it will probably increase the infanticide of natural children greatly, since nursing women will now raise their prices for taking in children, to cover all risks. Dr. Thompson Dickson, in a very able recent paper on the subject, points to the fact that in Scotland there are fewer infanticides than in England, and scarcely any baby-farming; although there is in Scotland far more illegitimacy. Perhaps, then, after all, the best plan would be to do away with what are euphoniously termed the *bastardy laws*, and look with greater leniency on the phenomenon of illegitimacy. In this direction, I think, public opinion is moving; and, although public opinion is liable to take flight at times, "E pur si muove."

I am, etc., CHARLES R. DRYSDALE, M.D.

99, Southampton Row, W.C., October 17, 1870.

WE are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest:—The Indian Medical Gazette, Sept. 19th; The New York Medical Gazette, Oct. 1st; The New York Medical Record, Oct. 6th; The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Oct. 6th; The Madras Mail, August 8th; The Shield, Oct. 15th; The Birmingham Daily Post, Oct. 17th; The Illustrated Midland News, Oct. 8th; The Hampshire Chronicle, Oct. 15th; The Rock, Oct. 11th.

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

Mr. Haviland, London; Dr. Ransome, Manchester; Dr. Greene, London; The Secretary of the Ethnological Society; Mr. Gaine, Bath; Mr. J. M. Heward, Stamford; An Occasional Correspondent, Cambridge; Dr. Rutherford, London; Dr. A. Lloyd Owen, Portsmouth; Mr. Worth, Nottingham; The Secretary of the Children's Hospital; Dr. A. Drummond, Birmingham; Dr. Pavy, London; Mr. R. O. Blythman, Swinton; Mr. Mayo, Winchester; Dr. Elliott, Hull; Dr. Lewis A. Sayre, New York; Mr. Roger Eykyn, London; M.A. Cantab, Yarmouth; Mr. Charles W. Thorp, Todmorden; Mr. Bushnan, Chalons; Messrs. F. C. Calvert and Co., Manchester; Dr. Tessier, Tynemouth; Dr. Lodge, St. Asaph; Sir Dominic Corrigan, Bart., M.P., Dublin; Mr. C. G. Wheelhouse, Leeds; The Secretary of the Quekett Microscopical Club; Mr. Chas. W. Wood, Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough; Dr. Phillips, London; The Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; Messrs. J. and G. Johnston, London; Mr. J. J. Hott, London; Mrs. Ashforth, Tunbridge Wells; Messrs. Hitchcock and Garrad, London; Dr. Bell Fletcher, Birmingham; Dr. Moriarty, Youghal; Mr. Drummond, Birmingham; Dr. H. J. Yeld, Sunderland; Dr. Duckworth, London; Dr. W. C. Arnison, Newcastle-on-Tyne; etc.

LETTERS, ETC. (with enclosures) from:—

Dr. David Ferrier, London; Our Paris Special Correspondent; Mr. Curling, London; Messrs. Coleman and Co., London; Dr. J. H. Tylecote, Sandon, Staffordshire; Dr. H. Barnes, Carlisle; Dr. J. Sloane, Leicester; Dr. J. Hughlings Jackson, London; Mr. De Berdt Hovell, Clapton; Dr. Neil Hancock, Dublin; Dr. Orston, Aberdeen; Dr. C. J. B. Aldis, London; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Dr. Playfair, London; Dr. Falconer, Bath; M.R.C.S. Eng.; Dr. Kelly, Taunton; 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; The Secretary of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow; Dr. Aveling, Rochester; Mr. T. Watkin Williams, Birmingham; Dr. J. Milner Fothergill, Leeds; Dr. Smart, Penze; Mr. A. Duncan, Glasgow; The Secretary of the Clinical Society; Mr. George May, jun., Reading; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Dr. Pitt, Norwich; Mr. J. White, Nottingham; Dr. Elliston, Ipswich; Dr. C. Harrison, Lincoln; Dr. Bryan, Northampton; Mr. S. Wood, Shrewsbury; Dr. Whitmore, London; Dr. Graily Hewitt, London; Mr. A. B. Kernot, Muker; Mr. Stonard Eadye, Exeter; Mr. John Gamgee, London; The Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society, London; etc.