

Association Intelligence.

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

It is particularly requested that all subscriptions still owing may be transmitted to the Treasurer, Sir Charles Hastings, before the expiration of the current year.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, *General Secretary.*

Worcester, December 24th, 1861.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: GENERAL MEETING.

A GENERAL meeting of this Branch was held in the Medical Department of the Birmingham Library on December 12, 1861; BELL FLETCHER, M.D., President, in the Chair. There were also present, twenty-one members and two visitors.

New Members of Branch. Mr. Frederick Dunn and Mr. Frederick Turton, both of Wolverhampton, members of the Association, were elected members of the Branch.

Papers. The following papers were read:—

1. Remarks on the Pathology and the Treatment of Primary Syphilis, especially in reference to the Use and Abuse of Mercury. By Langston Parker, Esq.

2. On the Employment of Gradual Dilating Metallic Sounds in the Treatment of Stricture of the Urethra. By V. Jackson, Esq.

Correspondence.

CHAMBERLAINS' OBSTETRICAL INSTRUMENTS.

LETTER FROM GEORGE SKINNER, ESQ.

SIR,—Noticing in the JOURNAL of November 30th the contents of a paper read by Dr. R. Lee, at a meeting of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, "On the Discovery of the original Obstetrical Instruments of the Chamberlains," I beg to direct your attention to the same subject, which was related by the late talented Dr. Gooch, in his course of lectures on Practical Midwifery, given at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1818, and published by me in the year 1831, in a small volume, under the title of *A Practical Compendium of Midwifery*. This book deservedly obtained a rapid sale of a large edition; it has been many years out of print, but I yet possess a few copies; it is, I believe, the most concise, and best practical book of its size ever published. I state this after forty years experience.

I am not aware whether Dr. Lee was enabled to supply a much more minute detail of facts, than was published in my book thirty years since; at all events, more particulars are given in my publication, than appear in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of the 30th ultimo. The discovery of Chamberlains' instruments was made about the year 1814.

Feeling that it might be interesting to some who cannot refer to the *Practical Compendium of Midwifery*, in which the subject is spoken of at page 200, I beg to hand you the extract.

On being about to speak of the employment of the forceps, immediately preceding, it is thus stated. "About the middle of the seventeenth century, there was in London a family of accoucheurs, a father and two sons, named Chamberlain, who, it was generally said, possessed a secret which enabled them to deliver women

without injury to mother or child. They would not disclose their secret; they monopolised almost the whole midwifery practice of London, and, of course, made their fortunes. The first account we have of the forceps was in the year 1733; and these instruments were supposed to be the same as those which Chamberlain had employed, the truth of which conjecture was not confirmed until within the last four or five years." (This was said by Dr. Gooch in 1818.)

The history which I received from Mr. Carwardine of Essex, runs thus:—"Woodham Mortimer Hall, in Essex, is an old manor house, and was once the residence of old Chamberlain; since whose time it has been occupied by several individuals. About four years since, Mr. Kemble, in exploring an old closet in his house, discovered a trap-door, which being opened was found to lead into another closet, in which were boxes containing letters, rings, jewels, trinkets, among other things, old Chamberlain's will, and a ring with the hair of Mrs. Chamberlain, which appeared to have been placed there by her daughter, with the following memorandum: 'This lock of hair was taken from my dear mother after her death.' There were also two bags of instruments, consisting of different specimens of the forceps and vectis. There was a petition also to the House of Commons, lamenting the number of deaths occasioned by ignorant midwives, and stating that himself and his sons possessed a knowledge of means by which women may be delivered without injury to either the mother or child; and hinting slyly that if the House of Commons would grant him a sum of money, he would, at their command, disclose the secret. Old Chamberlain was buried in the churchyard near by; and on his tombstone is engraved, 'that he was born in 1601, and died in 1692, and had been physician to three kings; to wit, Charles the First, Charles the Second, and James the Second; that he was baptised when he was forty-eight years of age, after which he kept the Sabbath.'"

These circumstances leave no doubt that the instruments found in the closet were those which Chamberlain employed, which were similar to the forceps and vectis now in use.

I am, etc.,

GEORGE SKINNER.

Belmont, Bath, Dec. 9, 1861.

ARE INFANTS AT THE BREAST EVER NARCOTISED OR INTOXICATED THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THE BREAST-MILK?

LETTER FROM THOMAS INMAN, M.D.

SIR,—I beg to refer "Amicus" to the last volume of Pereira's *Materia Medica*, page 2119. He will there find the authority on which I made the statement of opium narcotising infants, etc. As I have abstained from using the drug for nurses, I have no personal experience to offer.

As regards the action of alcohol on breast-milk, I have known an infant to be sickened (to vomit) for a whole day after the mother has had a single wineglassful of whiskey and water; and this recurred sufficiently often to allow of an elimination of all doubt as to the cause. I presume that "Amicus" knows, that when children are intoxicated, or narcotised, they are not in the habit of beginning by dancing, singing, or reeling about the streets; and consequently that the evidence of the effect of spirits upon them differs from that looked for in adults. After satisfying himself respecting the amount and nature of the evidence he will be contented with, let him ask his nursing patients, what is the effect on a wailing infant of a glass of gin and water taken by the mother prior to suckling? After he has collected a few answers, he may next try to persuade the mammas to try whether a glass of water or a draught of gruel will

not have the same effect. By this process he will acquire a substantive and practical knowledge how an infant may be sent to sleep without opium.

Allow me also to remark that the arguments I brought forward respecting the value of alcohol as food and physic are untouched, even though "Amicus" and others prove that the absolute truth of one or two illustrative statements is not demonstrated. (There are abundance of facts on which we daily act, which are equally unsupported; e.g. we believe that the anonymous letter signed "Amicus," is written by another than the editor).

One word more on the subject of alcohol, and I have done. Most persons allow that sugar, wheat, arrowroot, barley, rice, raisins, etc., are nutritious: ferment these, and we have the products, rum, whiskey, gin, arrack, brandy, etc. (i.e. alcohol), plus carbonic acid, an ash remaining behind of lime or other mineral. What is the essential difference between brandy and soda water, and a bunch of grapes? between rum and Seltzer water, and a lump of sugar? Chemically the difference is small; and until the contrary is proved, we have as much right to believe that if nature can convert one into flesh and blood, it can the other; and if we find that a water-drinker eats twice as much bread as one who takes wine, both being equal in other respects, is it not a pretty fair inference that nature does so?

I am, etc., THOMAS INMAN, M.D.

Liverpool, December 1861.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. At the ordinary meeting of the Fellows, held on December 24, which had been postponed from the 23rd inst., in consequence of the funeral of His late Royal Highness the Prince Consort, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, were duly admitted members of the College:—

Andrew, James, M.B., the College, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
MacLeod, Alexander Charles, M.M. Madras Service

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND. At a meeting of the Council, on December 19th, the Court of Examiners reported that the following members of the College had passed the necessary examinations for the Fellowship to their satisfaction, whereupon the Council directed the issue of the usual diplomas:—

Cooke, John, *Dreadnought* Hospital Ship; diploma of membership dated February 29, 1856
Davies, Benjamin, Newport, Monmouthshire; August 3, 1849
Hamilton, Robert, Liverpool; November 2, 1849
Kingdon, John Abernethy, New Bank Buildings; Aug. 17, 1849
Liddon, William, Taunton; December 12, 1856
Morgan, David Lloyd, Royal Navy; April 17, 1846
Rogers, Henry Philip, Mauritius; January 21, 1859
Ryan, William Burke, Bayswater; June 7, 1833

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On December 19th, the following licentiates were admitted:—

Dane, Thomas, Barrow Hill Place
Ellis, Edward, Fitzroy Square
Gilbert, Edward Gillett, Bilston, Staffordshire
Huggall, Thomas John, Westbourne Square
Kemp, Benjamin, Horbury, Wakefield, Yorkshire
Leaf, Walter, Newman Street
Oliver, Richard, Shrewsbury
Oliver, Samuel
Rice, David, Charlbury, Oxfordshire
Tyley, Richard Purnell, Wells, Somerset
Williams, Edward Humphry, Ludgate Street

APPOINTMENTS.

DIBB, Edward N., Esq., elected Assistant Resident Officer to the General Infirmary, Leeds.
DUNNE, John, M.D., elected Physician to the East Sussex Infirmary, in the room of J. Stevenson, L.R.C.P.
ROBERTS, T. A., Esq., appointed Resident Dispenser and Assistant at the Western General Dispensary, Marylebone Road.

SEALY, George J., Esq., appointed House-Surgeon to the West Kent Infirmary, Maidstone, in the room of G. H. Furber, Esq.

ROYAL NAVY. The following appointments have been made:—

INMAN, William, M.D., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Victory*, for service at Haslar Hospital.

LEONARD, Frederick J., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Vigilant*.

VOLUNTEER CORPS. The following appointment has been made (A.V.—Artillery Volunteers; R.V.—Rifle Volunteers):—

BOWEN, E., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st Administrative Brigade Cheshire A.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

CLEGG, J., Esq., 19th Essex R.V.

ROBERTSON, A. S., Esq., 6th Invernesshire R.V.

MARRIAGE.

FLEISCHMANN, Alfred, M.B., Tunbridge Wells, to Florence, only daughter of the late Rev. J. *Emilius* SHADWELL, and granddaughter of the late Right Honourable Sir Lancelot Shadwell, Vice-Chancellor of England, at Slough, on December 17.

DEATHS.

CORBOLD, Henry H., Esq., Surgeon, at 5, Tyndale Place, Islington, aged 40, on December 19.

FREEMAN, J. E., M.D., Assistant-Surgeon 18th Bombay Native Infantry, in India, lately.

GIBB. On December 21st, aged 31, Mary Elizabeth, wife of *George D. Gibb, M.D., of Portman Street, Portman Square.

GOODEVE, William J., Esq., Surgeon, at Clifton, aged 66, on December 22.

Ogilvie, G. M., Esq., Surgeon Bombay Army, Inspector-General of Prisons, in India, lately.

PINKERTON, A. P. W., M.D., at Aden, on November 21st.

STEWART, Thomas H., Esq., Surgeon, late Assistant-Conservator of the Hunterian Museum, at Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire, aged 29, on December 21.

TOPHAM. On December 16th, at Rome, Caroline Maud, daughter of John Topham, M.D.

WALL, Parsons, Esq., late Assistant-Surgeon 64th Regiment, in India, lately.

VACANCY. The office of superintendent of *Post Mortem* Examinations at the Middlesex Hospital is vacant through the resignation of Dr. Murchison.

THE EFFECTS OF THE LATE PROFESSOR QUEKETT, including a large collection of microscopes, philosophical apparatus, and curiosities of various kinds, have been distributed by the auctioneer, Mr. Bullock. Several of the curious old microscopes were secured by the Microscopical Society of London; amongst them, a highly-finished and perfect instrument, said to have been made by that celebrated maker, Benjamin Martin, by command of George III, for one of the Royal Dukes. This microscope was much prized by Mr. Quekett, and for this reason alone the Society were most anxious to secure it.

THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT. On Saturday, December 21st, Major Graham, the Registrar-General, attended at Windsor Castle for the purpose of superintending the civil registration of the death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort previous to the funeral. The death was recorded in the register-book of the Windsor district by Mr. Towers, the Registrar of Births and Deaths, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales signing the entry as informant "present at death." The fatal disease was recorded, "Typhoid fever; duration, twenty-one days," as certified in writing by the physicians who had been in attendance on the deceased.

MEMORIAL TO PROFESSOR QUEKETT. The President, Council, and Members of the Microscopical Society of London, being desirous of testifying their esteem for the late Professor Quekett, and to commemorate the value of his services rendered to the Society for nearly twenty years, and to the progress of microscopical science throughout the world, have resolved upon raising an appropriate testimonial to his memory, to be kept in the Society; the balance to be invested for the benefit of his children. This resolution of the Society has met with

the approval of the leading members of the body, and a hearty response from the Provincial Societies, and we doubt not will be cordially taken up by microscopists all over the kingdom, so that a handsome subscription-list must be the result. Mr. Jabez Hogg is the Honorary Secretary, and the Union Bank of London, Regent Street Branch, Bankers of the Fund.

MONTHLY SUPPLIES FOR THE FEDERAL ARMY. The following figures show the amount of commissary stores which will be consumed in one month by the United States army when brought up to the standard authorised by Congress, viz.: 500,000 men. It will be seen that the labours of the commissary department are anything but trivial, and that the cost of feeding an army is somewhat serious item. 11,250,000 pounds of pork, or 18,750,000 pounds of fresh beef; 105,380 barrels of flour; 37,500 bushels of beans, or 1,500,000 pounds of rice; 1,500,000 pounds of coffee; 2,250,000 lbs of sugar; 150,000 gallons of vinegar; 225,000 pounds of candles; 600,000 pounds of soap; 6,984 bushels of salt; and 6,600,000 pounds of potatoes. (*Phil. Med. Rep.*)

THE NEW BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA. We understand that the publication of the *New Pharmacopœia*, which was announced for the beginning of next year, has been necessarily postponed for a considerable time. We believe the proof sheets were nearly ready when, as we are informed, it was ascertained that certain changes and additions had been made to the matter determined on by the Committee, on the sole responsibility of one or more of its members. It will be necessary, we understand, for the Pharmaceutical Committee of the Medical Council to meet again in Edinburgh or London to consider these changes, which are stated to have been of much importance, with a view to their being confirmed or expunged as may be determined on. (*Dublin Med. Press.*)

SPREAD OF SMALL-POX IN MAYO. We understand that the spread of small-pox throughout some rural districts in this county is assuming a serious character, which is attributable, we learn, to the inoculation of children by a number of wretched quacks who have been exercising their "calling" to a fearful extent, so much so that although several deaths have resulted from the introduction of this virulent disease, no proper steps have been taken to bring the offenders to deserved punishment. We are aware that medical officers have been reporting on the subject, but unless the constabulary take up the matter, no effectual check will be given to the system, as the police by their local knowledge can easily arrive at the truth of the matter, as the peasantry are in general in favour of the old, abominable inoculation of their children, and even when death ensues they are unwilling witnesses against the offender. We therefore most urgently impress on the authorities the necessity for some imperative measures being adopted, as if not, the spread of that dreadful epidemic may be more serious than at present may be imagined. (*Mayo Constitution.*)

POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—DECEMBER 21, 1861.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

		Births.	Deaths.
During week.....	{ Boys .. 958 Girls.. 944 }	1902	1248
Average of corresponding weeks 1861-60		1550	1837
Barometer:			
Highest (Sat.) 30.193; lowest (Wed.) 29.882; mean 30.087.			
Thermometer:			
Highest in sun—extremes (Th.) 69 degs.; (Tu.) 50 degs.			
In shade—highest (Mon.) 51 degrees; lowest (Th.) 34.5 degs.			
Mean—42.6 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.—4.30 degs.			
Range—during week, 16.5 degrees; mean daily, 7.1 degrees.			
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 88.			
Mean direction of wind, N.W. and N.E.—Rain in inches, 0.09.			

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY..... Royal Free, 2 P.M.—Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.
TUESDAY. Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.
WEDNESDAY... St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.
THURSDAY..... St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—London, 1:30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.
FRIDAY. Westminster Ophthalmic, 1:30 P.M.
SATURDAY..... St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1:30 P.M.—King's College, 1:30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES. DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY. Institute of Actuaries, 7 P.M.
WEDNESDAY. Obstetrical Society of London, 8 P.M.: Annual Meeting: President's Address.—Pharmaceutical, 8 P.M.
FRIDAY. Archæological Institute, 4 P.M.
SATURDAY. Army Medical, 7½ P.M.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

. All letters and communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

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

WANT OF SPACE obliges us this week to defer the publication of much pressing matter.

MR. ARMSTRONG TODD has sent us a letter alluding to remarks made in this JOURNAL upon certain lithotomy cases of his, published in the *Medical Times and Gazette*. Happily for him, his letter contains merely a repetition of what he has already stated, and therefore we need not publish it. We say happily for Mr. Todd; for we are sure that if he were to see his epistle in print, he would be sorry to find his name appended to it. We do not charge Mr. Todd with the writing of such a letter. He evidently delegated the duty to one of his servants. To give our readers an idea of the literary character of this letter, we copy from it the following specimens of orthography:—*seemes, disprage, aluded, benifit, deseas, occured, breifly, priveous, malisiously, fashood*. We shall be glad to hear from Mr. Todd that he knows nothing about the letter; at all events, he can hardly expect us to print letters which he cannot take the trouble to write himself.

MEDICUS.—A registered M.R.C.S. Eng. and L.K. & Q.C.P. Ireland, can recover in a county court for medical attendance and medicines supplied to his patients.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Mr. J. Vose Solomon; Dr. Davey; Mr. W. Kimbell; Mr. Fras. Troup; Mr. Hugh Norris; Mr. G. Greaves; Mr. R. Dunn; Mr. William Copney; Mr. C. S. Barter; Mr. J. R. Salter; Mr. O. Pemberton; Mr. T. M. Stone; and Dr. Graily Hewitt.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. The Asclepiad. Vol. 1. Clinical Essays. By Benjamin W. Richardson, M.D. London: 1861.
2. Remarks on Homœopathy; being a Rejoinder to some Replies elicited by the Letter of Sir B. Brodie in *Fraser's Magazine*. By Edwin Lee, M.D. London: 1861.
3. A Manual of Psychological Medicine. By John C. Bucknill, M.D., and Daniel H. Tuke, M.D. Second edition: revised and enlarged. London: 1861.
4. Practical Medical Precepts for Plain People. By Alfred Fleischmann.
5. Handbook of the Practice of Forensic Medicine, based upon Personal Experience. By J. L. Casper, M.D. Vol. 1. Translated by G. W. Balfour, M.D. New Sydenham Society. 1861.
6. Selected Monographs. Czernak on the Practical Uses of the Laryngoscope. Dusch on Thrombosis of the Cerebral Sinuses. Schröder van der Kolk on Atrophy of the Brain. Radicke on the Application of Statistics to Medical Inquiries. Research on the Uses of Cold in Surgical Practice. New Sydenham Society. 1861.

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