

entered St. George's Hospital as a pupil sixty-five years ago. The toast of the evening, "Prosperity to St. George's Hospital and School", was very warmly responded to. The attendance was very large, over one hundred being present.

At St. Mary's, Charing Cross, and the Westminster Hospitals, *conversations* were held after the Introductory Addresses.

THE CHOLERA.

THE Sanitary Council of Hamburg has officially announced that the cholera, which had made its appearance there, is now extinct.

IN Koenigsberg the fatality from cholera is declining. In the week ending last Thursday, 23 deaths were reported, against 52 in the week ending 14th ult. In Stettin, three fatal cases occurred last week.

CHOLERA has broken out severely in Constantinople. A Constantinople telegram states that the Government has ordered a sanitary cordon to be drawn around one of the quarters in Pera ravaged most severely by the cholera. No one is permitted to cross this cordon. The local journals severely criticise this measure as useless, and tending to spread a panic among the inhabitants of the quarter, besides exposing them to privations. A medical man and a priest, purposing to tend the sick, have been prevented crossing the cordon.

A CORRESPONDENCE has taken place between the Local Government Board and the Metropolitan Asylum District Managers on the subject of accommodation for cholera patients in the event of that epidemic reaching the metropolis. The managers, while expressing their willingness to receive a limited number of patients at the Hampstead Hospital, suggest that, as cholera would probably first appear in the port of London, the *Dreadnought* should be used as a floating hospital for the purposes of isolation, and that in each union workhouse a cholera ward should be prepared. In reply to this, the Assistant-Secretary of the Local Government Board, writing on the 29th September, says: "For the purpose of enabling the managers to provide suitable hospital accommodation, in the event of the metropolis being again visited by cholera, the Board proposes to issue an order combining the several unions and parishes constituting the Metropolitan Asylum District into a district for the relief of poor persons who may be attacked by that disease, and directing that the managers of the present Metropolitan Asylum District shall also be managers for the district so contemplated to be formed."

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE next meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Town Hall, Wellingborough, on Tuesday, October 10th, at 2 P.M.

Gentlemen who intend to read papers or cases, are requested to forward the titles of the same forthwith.

J. M. BRYAN, M.D. } *Honorary Secretaries.*
WM. MOXON. }

Northampton, September 11th, 1871.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE next meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Council Room of the Midland Institute, on Thursday, October 12th, at 3 P.M.

Mr. Lawson Tait will move that a Committee be appointed to consider the mode of election of the Officers and Council of the Branch.

The following papers are promised:—On some points of Surgical Experience, by Mr. H. D. Carden; Old and New Methods of Water Analysis, by Dr. Alfred Hill; On the Lactic Acid Treatment of Rheumatism, by Dr. B. W. Foster.

Members are invited to exhibit pathological specimens at the commencement of the meeting.

T. H. BARTLEET, *Honorary Secretary.*
Birmingham, October 1871.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE first ordinary meeting of the Session will be held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday evening, October 26th, at seven o'clock. CROSBY LEONARD, Esq., President.

R. S. FOWLER, Bath, } *Honorary Secretaries.*
E. C. BOARD, Clifton, }
6, Belmont, Bath, October 1871.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of the above Branch will be held at the King's Arms Hotel, Wigton, on Wednesday, October 25th, at half-past twelve o'clock. The President, Dr. ELLIOT of Carlisle, will occupy the Chair. Gentlemen intending to read papers or cases, are requested to communicate with the Secretary at their earliest convenience.

HENRY BARNES, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*
Carlisle, October 3rd, 1871.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE next Ordinary Meeting of this Branch will be held on Tuesday, November 7th, at the Town Hall, Cardiff, at 1.30 P.M. The Council will meet at 12.30 P.M.

The Dinner will take place at 5.30 P.M.; and members may introduce professional friends to the meeting and dinner.

Members intending to read papers or notes of cases are requested to communicate the titles thereof as soon as possible to one of the Honorary Secretaries.

All members who purpose joining the dinner, will oblige by communicating their intentions to one of the Honorary Secretaries before the 31st instant.

ANDREW DAVIES, } *Honorary Secretaries.*
ALFRED SHEEN, M.D., }

October 4th, 1871.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SUSSEX DISTRICT MEETINGS.

A MEETING of the members of this district was held at the Castle Hotel, Hastings, on Friday, September 29th. Fourteen members present, and two visitors. Dr. J. M. CUNNINGHAM of Hailsham was elected Chairman.

Secretary.—Dr. Trollope of St. Leonard's was appointed District Honorary Secretary in the place of Mr. Mudd of Uckfield, who resigns in consequence of leaving the neighbourhood.

New Members.—John Cooke, M.B., of Hastings, was elected a member of the Branch. George B. Turner, M.D., of St. Leonard's, was nominated as a member of the Association and of this Branch.

Communications.—1. Dr. G. MOORE of Hastings read a paper on a case of Diabetes of three months' standing. The patient had previously been rigorously dieted. Under a bread-and-milk diet (three pints of the latter daily) and the administration of effervescing salines, with iron, the urine became perfectly free from sugar in a fortnight, and the patient speedily gained flesh and strength. Dr. Moore expressed himself strongly in favour of the free use of milk in such cases.

2. Mr. G. F. HODGSON of Brighton exhibited a pair of Long Forceps with the handles curved backwards, according to the suggestion of Dr. Aveling, and claimed for his instrument its adaptation for all cases in which the use of the forceps was required.

3. Mr. BUXTON SHILLITOE of London, who was present as a visitor, explained the process of the A B C Company (of which he is a director) as now in course of application to the sewage of Hastings.

Dinner.—Fourteen gentlemen subsequently dined at the Castle under the presidency of Dr. Cunningham.

The next meeting will be held in November at Brighton, Dr. Alfred Hall in the chair. The Honorary Secretary requests early notice of intended communications.

OBITUARY.

CHARLES A. HARRIES, M.R.C.S., OF BATH.

THIS gentleman was born on February 19th, 1808. He was engaged in the practice of his profession upwards of forty years. An ardent lover of science; a man of genial and amiable disposition, ever ready with a cheering smile and kindly word; a zealous discharger of every private and public duty; he won the respect and affection of a very large circle of patients and friends. He was a town councillor of Bath for many years, and rendered valuable services to his fellow-citizens. So attached was he to his work that, although ailing for some time, he only ceased his labours a few months since, being compelled to resign his practice by the progress of cardiac disease, which ended fatally on September 22nd, 1871.

GEORGE CURSHAM, M.D., F.R.C.P.

ON Saturday, September 23rd, full of years and honour, there passed away at the age of 75, George Cursham, M.D. Paris, F.R.C.P. Long will Dr. Cursham be mourned and his memory affectionately cherished by those who were admitted to the privilege of his intimate acquaintance. Dr. Cursham's high principle and unflinching rectitude, combined with his clear judgment, made him highly respected by his professional brethren, who must feel that one has gone forth from amongst them whose place will not easily be filled. Dr. Cursham was for many years Physician to the Brompton Consumption Hospital and to the Asylum for Female Orphans; he was also for some years Secretary to the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, and held up to the time of his death the post of Inspector of Anatomy to the provincial schools.

JOHN SCOTT, F.R.C.S.ED., OF CULROSS.

It is the wish of some medical men to die in harness, but it is seldom that such is so fully carried out as in the sudden and sad death of Mr. John Scott of Culross. He went out on the morning of the 15th August apparently in good health, and had visited one or two of his patients and was on his way to see another, when he felt the first symptoms of the fatal seizure. After three such warnings he came out of his gig, told his boy not to leave him, and lay down by the road-side and died. Such was the sad end of one who, in his lifetime, gave comfort and strength to many a sufferer, and whose cheering words revived the heart of many a drooping one. He was born in Culross in 1807, and received his diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, in 1829. In 1856 he had the fellowship of the same college conferred upon him. His first intention was to join the Army or Navy Medical Service; but, through great persuasion, he consented to remain in his native place, where he successfully practised, without intermission, till the day of his death. He was the only recognised consulting practitioner in the district, and his loss will not only be felt throughout his native parish, but for many miles round.

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 28th, 1871.

Elam, Shrofield, 40, Woburn Place, W.C.
Mountaine, John, Wise's Hill, Sunday's Well, Cork

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

Bennett, William Edward, Guy's Hospital
Evans, John, London Hospital
Nix, Edward James, Charing Cross Hospital

At the Preliminary Examination in Arts, held at the Hall of the Society, on the 29th and 30th of September, 1871, 159 candidates presented themselves; of whom 66 were rejected, and the following 93 passed, and received certificates of proficiency in general education; viz., in the First Class, in the order of merit.

1. E. J. Morshead. 2. H. P. E. Freund. 3. A. C. Routh. 4. A. S. Eccles, J. C. Hayward, F. Nicholls, and H. C. Taylor. 8. H. R. H. Bigg, F. S. Edwards, F. G. Hayes, P. Hookham, J. L. Jacquet, W. B. Johnson, R. D. Perry, and Thomas Tomlinson. 16. J. R. Blackie, L. Druiett, C. G. Emson, E. Ground, A. G. Lacy, Stephen M. Smith, and J. Wishaw.

In the Second Class, in alphabetical order.

L. M. Anderson, P. W. Ashe, H. Baker, Henry Bartlett, T. A. Bell, J. S. Biale, George S. K. Bigg, Archibald Blair, H. Blake, G. C. Bouton, G. R. Bonsall, A. L. Bowen, C. J. L. Bowling, Francis W. Brown, Thomas L. Brown, A. H. Burlton, H. C. Burton, G. W. Butler, W. F. Campbell, G. R. Chadwick, E. T. Chamberlain, H. B. Crofts, Edmund Da Costa, H. E. Daniell, A. M. Davies, H. P. Downing, D. W. Fergusson, William Foresythe, E. G. Francis, Walter Gray, W. H. Grigg, G. W. Hambleton, Howard Harris, A. Harding, W. K. Hatch, Alfred Hodgson, C. A. Holmsted, Reginald Humphry, Robert Dennett Jones, William Jones, N. T. King, J. Tomlinson Knight, J. L. Lampray, S. E. H. Lane, John Lawson, Joseph Lewes, E. H. MacLaughlin, D. D. Malpas, W. H. Manwaring, Ernest Martyn, Joseph W. Moore, T. C. Mugliston, Richard Pinnell, J. H. Poland, P. A. Rigby, R. R. T. Risk, Alonzo Roberts, John T. Roberts, Harvey Robins, G. F. H. Rule, W. Scholfield, Richard Steele, John J. Stephenson, John G. Swaine, John Symons, John Thomas, Henry Thomas Tomlinson, Charles P. G. Townsend, Ethelbert Wade, Austin George Ward, and Arthur Frank Wilson.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:—

ATCHAM UNION, Salop—Medical Officer for the St. Mary's District.
ASYLUM FOR FEMALE ORPHANS—Physician.
BALLINASLOE UNION, co. Galway—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Lawrencetown Dispensary District.

BALTINGLAW UNION, co. Wicklow—Medical Officer for the Kiltegan Dispensary District.
BRISTOL, City of—Medical Officer for District No. 2.
CAHERCIVEEN UNION, co. Kerry—Medical Officer for the Emlagh Dispensary District.
CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL—Assistant Physician.
CLAPTON—Divisional Surgeon to the Police.
CORNWALL LUNATIC ASYLUM, Bodmin—Assistant Medical Officer.
DORCHESTER UNION—Medical Officer for the Dorchester District and the Workhouse.
GUEST HOSPITAL, Dudley—Resident Medical Officer.
INFIRMARY FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Margaret Street, Cavendish Square—Visiting Physician.
LIVERPOOL NORTHERN HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon.
MARLBOROUGH UNION, Wilts—Medical Officer for District No. 2.
MAYO INFIRMARY, Castlebar—Surgeon.
OMAGH UNION, co. Tyrone—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Eastern Division of the Omagh Dispensary District.
PEMBROKE UNION—Medical Officer for District No. 5.
POCKLINGTON UNION, Yorkshire—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Pocklington No. 2 District and the Workhouse.
RATHDOWN UNION, co. Dublin—Medical Officer for the Killiney Dispensary District.
ROMFORD UNION, Essex—Medical Officer for District No. 7.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, England—Member of Council.
ROYAL INFIRMARY, Edinburgh—Resident Physician, Clinical Wards.
ST. LEONARD'S SCHOOL, Brentwood—Surgeon.
TIVERTON UNION, Devon—Medical Officer for the Silverton District.
WARMINSTER UNION, Wilts—Medical Officers and Public Vaccinators for the Corsley and Warminster Districts and the Workhouse.
WARRINGTON, Lancashire—Medical Officer of Health.
WESTHAMPTON UNION, Sussex—Medical Officer for the Rumboldswyke District.
YORK COUNTY HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

ANDREW, R. W., L.K.Q.C.P. Irel., appointed Medical Officer for the Palmerstown Dispensary District of the South Dublin Union.
CULLEN, Owen, L.K.Q.C.P. Irel., appointed Medical Officer for the Kilmeaden Dispensary District of the Waterford Union.
*Low, Robert Bruce, M.D., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Messingham District of the Glanford Brigg Union, Lincolnshire, *vice* W. Terrewest, M.D., resigned.
STRAFFORD, Thomas, Esq., appointed Resident Surgeon to the Worksop Dispensary, *vice* Edward J. Cooke, M.B., resigned.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, is 3s. 6d., which should be forwarded in stamps with the communication.

BIRTHS.

SCOWCROFT.—On October 3rd, at Bolton-le-Moors, the wife of *J. Edwin Scowcroft, L.R.C.P. Ed., of a son.
SIBBALD.—On September 29th, at 16, Dalrymple Crescent, Edinburgh, the wife of *John Sibbald, M.D., of a son.

DEATHS.

BAIN, John, Esq., Surgeon, at Johnstone, N.B., aged 27, on September 22nd.
MORGAN, John Flower, Esq., Surgeon (formerly Assistant-Surgeon 2nd Royal Lancashire Militia), at Bath, aged 86, on September 23rd.
PANTON, George, Esq., Surgeon, at Dorchester, aged 55, on September 26th.

THE EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE LUNATIC ASYLUM at Beverley, which has been erected at a cost, including land, and fitting and furnishing, of nearly £40,000, will be opened in a few days.

MR. EDWARD SMILES, M.R.C.S.ENG., of Alnwick, is a candidate for the Coronership of Northumberland, vacant by the death of Mr. Hardy.

VACCINATION PROSECUTIONS.—At the Orsett petty session, John Whitmore, a labourer, was summoned for having neglected to have his two children vaccinated, and he was ordered to have it done forthwith.

RELEASE OF MR. WILSON FROM CRICHTON ASYLUM, DUMFRIES.—The *Liverpool Mercury* states that Mr. Thomas Wilson, of Harold Tower, Isle of Man, whose recent confinement in the Crichton Asylum, Dumfries, has caused so much comment, has been released, and arrived at his home in Douglas on Friday night, last week.

BEQUESTS, ETC.—Mr. William Welch of Great Brook Street, Birmingham, has bequeathed £300 to the General Hospital, £300 to the Queen's Hospital, £200 to the Children's Hospital, and £200 to the Homoeopathic Hospital.—Miss Carter of Lynn has bequeathed £300 to the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital.—Mr. John Palmer has bequeathed £100 each to the General Hospital, Queen's Hospital, and General Dispensary, Birmingham.—Mr. J. Nutter of Halifax has given £500 to the Bradford Infirmary.—Miss Rosa Ann Long of Dawlish has bequeathed £100 each to the Devon and Exeter Hospital, the Dawlish Dispensary, and the Brompton Hospital for Consumption.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAYMetropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.

TUESDAYGuy'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.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 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.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 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.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.

FRIDAYRoyal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Royal South London Ophthalmic Hospital, 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.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

WEDNESDAY.—Hunterian Society. 7.30 P.M., Council Meeting. 8 P.M., Introductory Address by the President; and a paper by Dr. Dalry.

FRIDAY.—Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Christian Bäumler, "On Cases of Partial and General Idiopathic Pericarditis"; Dr. Anstie, "Conclusion of a Case of Syphilitic Neuralgia, which was reported last Session"; and "On a Case of Anaesthetic Leprosy"; Mr. Nunn, "On a Case of Scrofuloderma treated by Woodhall Water"; Mr. George Lawson, "On the Treatment of a Case of large Melanotic Tumour of the Eye extending into the Orbit."

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 halfpenny 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 can only advise Mr. Rae to communicate privately with the gentlemen whom we have mentioned; and if he finds encouragement enough, we shall be happy to see him personally to give him further counsel how to proceed satisfactorily in the matter. It is a matter not less delicate than important.

MR. ERNEST TRESTRAIL.—The drawing up of the lists for publication in the JOURNAL is in the department of the General Secretary; and Mr. Trestrail should address Mr. T. Watkin Williams, 13, New Hall Street, Birmingham, on the subject of his missing qualification.

WASP-STINGS.

SIR,—Mr. Drury's remarks on the treatment of wasp-stings are very opportune at this season, as wasps are unusually numerous this year, and the present cold weather will reduce them from their flying to their crawling, and therefore more dangerous and vicious state, at an earlier period than usual.

Mr. Drury referred incidentally to the old woman's remedy of the "blue bag", but did not express an opinion on its use. I have myself so frequently witnessed its beneficial action, that I am anxious to say a few words in its favour. As a speedy application of a local remedy is of the utmost importance to prevent or modify the constitutional disturbance, and, as the surgeon can scarcely be in immediate attendance, it is desirable not to throw discredit on a popular remedy unless we are prepared to substitute an equally convenient and more efficient one in its place.

I was induced some time ago to make a rough analysis of some specimens of the "powder blue" of the shops, and I found some of them to consist of more than half their weight of carbonate of soda. This alkali is no doubt the active constituent of this old woman's remedy, and is, I believe, the one most commonly used by surgeons. The damp blue bag has the advantage of being always at hand, is easily applied, and is used with confidence by the public; while other remedies are probably not available, may require skill in their application, and are employed with doubt by the old women.

For surgical purposes, I have found the strong solution of ammonia, strong acetic acid, or strong solution of carbolic acid, the most useful; and I should expect little benefit from the application of laudanum in the first instance, though in a later stage it would allay general irritability of the skin. For this purpose, the anæsthetic action of the solution of carbolic acid is beneficial. For urgent constitutional symptoms, a much larger dose of sal volatile than that recommended by Mr. Drury may be given—a teaspoonful every fifteen or twenty minutes; but the treatment would necessarily depend on the constitution and temperament of the patient.

I am, etc.,

CHARLES ROBERTS, F.R.C.S.

Bolton Row, Mayfair, September 25th, 1871.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements should be forwarded direct to the Printing-Office, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C., addressed to Mr. F. H. HEATHCOTE, not later than *Thursday*, twelve o'clock.

"THE BUBBLE REPUTATION."

SIR,—“There is a pleasure in the pathless woods”; but commend me to the London streets for cheap amusement and mental relaxation. You may go further and fare worse, as the spirited proprietor of purgatory remarked to the discontented druggist. One of those vexatious elbow-joint injuries—a case of separation of the lower epiphysis of the humerus, the three points posteriorly all right, yet flexion restricted—necessitated a visit to the modern Babylon, and a consultation in Wimpole Street. In a shop window, the photographs of certain medical celebrities attracted attention. Miller, Tanner, Hyde Salter, are at rest: all fought a good fight and died in harness.

Contemplating in rapt admiration the visages of my “distinguished” contemporaries, I seem presently to become the confidant of what is going on in the frame before me. Dr. Guy here calculates the income of Sir H. Thompson, Bowman, and Spencer Wells. Henry Lee considers syphilis a joke. Farr arranges a difference between the Major and the terrific Letheby. Wilks, Pavy, and Chambers consult on a case of Ship-and-turtle-itis. Arthur Farre remarks that really he and Sir William Jenner only care to attend princesses; but Braxton Hicks, Barnes, Playfair, and Priestley are available. Druitt reads a proof of an ever welcome edition of “Surgery.” Partridge tells the gigantic sphenoid story. Henry Smith “at last” (Kingsley) has caught a fish in the Serpentine, and invites John Wood to dine, to meet Sir William Fergusson. Erasmus Wilson sneers at the new skin-baths. Forbes Winslow invites every one permanently to Hammersmith. Tilt congratulates Paget on the change of life. Ernest Hart is shocked to read that in Terra del Fuego the natives believe in devils, and that they are the departed spirits of members of the British Medical Association who have not paid up their subscriptions; and Garrod tells a gouty bishop “that the gods are just, and of our pleasant vices make instruments to scourge us.”

I am, etc.,

CHUTNIE CURRIE, M.D.

DR. PIRRIE ON ACUPRESSURE.

SIR,—I observed recently some remarks of Dr. Pirrie's on his favourite subject acupressure, wherein he says:—“The circumstance that obsolete modes are alone described in the last editions of otherwise excellent works on surgery, have all tended to retard the more general adoption of this new means of arresting surgical hæmorrhage.” Without more than alluding to the paradox of “obsolete modes” of a “new means” of arresting surgical hæmorrhage, it would be well that Dr. Pirrie, who has the interest of students at heart, should name those editions of “otherwise excellent works on surgery” that have described only obsolete modes of acupressure. Dr. Pirrie, otherwise generally accurate in his language, uses the term *inelastic* as applied to iron wire. Such a term is used in contradistinction to *elastic*. The latter attribute is not generally given to the adamantine mineral, but Dr. Pirrie may know a kind of iron wire that is not inelastic. In case the same mistake should happen with the Aberdeen method of acupressure, as happened with Sir J. Y. Simpson and chloroform, I think it right here to mention—especially as future glory is prophesied for one now dead on account of acupressure—that although Dr. Pirrie described the method in his conjoint book, the late Dr. Benjamin Knowles was the originator of the method, and demonstrated and described it to many of his friends and classfellows, and afterwards to Dr. Pirrie and the hospital staff. As surgical appliances and methods are not commonly called after the towns in which they first saw light, I propose that the name of the method of occluding an artery in a surgical wound by a needle twisted through the surrounding tissues and over the artery, be named the “Knowles's method”, the same as we have “Synie's abscess-knife” and “Pirrie's modification of Pirogoff's operation.” This is a small recognition to give one now passed away, but it may prevent future confusion. I am sure Dr. Pirrie himself would regret any misapprehension of the kind. Trusting you will find space for these remarks,

I am, etc.,

A. E. McRAE, C.M., M.B.

Fettercairn, August 1871.

A CHARITABLE PROPOSITION.

SIR,—The public will learn with unmixed satisfaction that it is in contemplation to present a testimonial to Sir James Paget on his elevation to the baronetcy. It is very honourable to St. Bartholomew's Hospital that this proposal should have emanated from thence; but, sir, the scientific world, both here and abroad, recognise Sir James Paget as belonging to *it*, and to the profession at large; and I am well persuaded that the profession at large will endorse this recognition, if opportunity be conceded them to participate in the movement. The main question which naturally presents itself is—What form should such a testimonial most appropriately take? Passing over the familiar and well-worn expedients of a piece of plate or a portrait as less worthy emblems of a feeling like this, would it not be more in unison with the character of the recipient, as well as more distinctly expressive of their appreciation of it by the givers, if a “Paget Fund” were established in connection with the British Medical Benevolent Fund, of which Sir James Paget is already a trustee, and with the purposes of which his sympathy has been unmistakably evidenced, in order to found for ever one or more annuities for the support of aged and destitute members of the profession or their widows, to be chosen from the most deserving and necessitous in the same careful manner in which the other annuitants, supported by that institution, are at present selected, or in any other way Sir James might himself suggest?

Will you permit me, through your valuable aid, to submit this for general consideration? and whether it would not for all time enhance the honour we desire “to render to whom honour is so justly due”—to identify with it a help in need to the less successful of our brethren in the race of life?

October 2nd, 1871.

I am, etc.,

H. F. S.

AMERICAN DEGREES.

SIR,—Would you inform an associate through the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, if a Degree of Medicine and Surgery from the Medical College, New York, entitles the party possessing it to style himself M.D. and Surgeon; and if he can legally practise medicine and surgery without fear of prosecution under the Medical Act; and if a Philadelphia Degree is of an equal status? An answer in your next issue, or at your earliest convenience, will very much oblige.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sept. 27th, 1871.

I am, etc.,

MEDICUS.

*—On inquiry, we expect both would be found to be bogus Colleges, and worthless degrees. Neither degree is registerable. Our correspondent should address his query, with full particulars, to the Registrar of the General Medical Council, Soho Square, W.C.

NOTICES of Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Appointments, intended for insertion in the JOURNAL, should arrive at the Office not later than 10 A.M. on Thursday.

NITRITE OF AMYL AS A REMEDY FOR CHOLERA.

SIR,—In your JOURNAL of the 30th ultimo, Dr. Talfourd Jones suggested the use of nitrite of amyl "in the collapse and cramps of cholera." As he appears to think the suggestion has not been made before, he will be interested in learning that I published a like suggestion in 1866. At page 208 of the second edition of my work on *Diarrhoea and Cholera*, published in that year, is a paragraph headed "Nitrite of Amyl." In that paragraph will be found the following words: "This substance possesses a very remarkable quality, which has led me to hope that it may prove of great value as a remedy for cholera." And, again, after stating that "the circulation of the blood is rapidly increased to an astonishing extent" by holding to the nostrils the tip of a feather dipped in the nitrite of amyl, I add: "Its remarkable property of increasing the circulation in the rapid and astonishing manner described, causes me to think that it gives greater promise of acting as an antidote to cholera than any other medical substance yet known. I much regret that, as yet, I have had no opportunity of trying its efficacy; and I hope that those physicians who have charge of cholera patients will carefully test its value." London, October 3rd, 1871. I am, etc., JOHN CHAPMAN, M.D., M.R.C.P.

OVARIO-TOMY.

SIR,—This operation is now becoming so common that I should not attempt to occupy either your time or space with its consideration had I not seen Mr. Russell's case reported in your impression of September 23rd. The report states that "the woman was dressed with lint soaked in *equal parts* of carbolic acid and glycerine. . . . during the after part of the day of operation, the patient complained of very acute abdominal pain, for which opium was administered freely by the rectum in the form of tincture, and suppository combined with belladonna, but without alleviation. Hypodermic injections of morphia quickly gave relief, and they were repeated twice or thrice daily for ten days."

I have myself used carbolic acid as a dressing for some time. At first, my anxiety prompted me to use what I now call a strong preparation—carbolic acid one part, glycerine two parts, and water five parts; and the result was such as Mr. Russell has recorded—"acute abdominal pain", though in a less degree, not calling for the hypodermic injections of morphia two or three times daily for ten days. I have found a suppository of 15 grains of compound soap pill, two or three times repeated, sufficient to control the pain. I am therefore disposed to think that the dressing in Mr. Russell's case had *something* to do with the production of the "acute abdominal pain." In my last case, operated on July 10th, assisted by Drs. Barnes and Aveling, and Mr. M. W. Chambers, I used as a dressing carbolic acid one part, glycerine two parts, tincture of opium four parts, water to forty parts. Lint soaked in this compound was placed over the wound as soon as closed, and kept on by adhesive plaster, over which was placed a *thick* layer of cotton wool, and secured by a flannel bandage and carpet pins. A suppository was passed into the bowel, and the patient put to bed. She was much exhausted; pulse 150; no pain beyond the smarting in the wound, which passed off in a few hours. The dressing was repeated every morning; perfect union by the first intention by the fifth day; no smell or discharge from the first. This form of dressing is simple, clean, sedative, antiseptic, light, and sufficient under ordinary circumstances. I regard opium as a valuable adjunct to carbolic acid as a dressing for such wounds. Should Professor Lister's views be correct as set forth in his address at Plymouth, cotton-wool will ere long hold an important place in the "bag" of every ovariotomist. In my case, the whole abdomen, from the upper part of the thighs to the breast, was thickly covered with it, and the result was most satisfactory. The wound was perfectly united on the fifth day, several days before Mr. Lister's address was delivered. Perhaps I may state that in this case the disease had been slowly progressive for upwards of four years; that the weight of the tumour when removed was thirty-two pounds; that the powers of life, from the combined influence of pressure, sleeplessness, and constant vomiting, had been reduced to a very low ebb. In order to show that it was not a specially favourable case selected for the illustration of any special form of treatment, the chief articles of diet were milk, eggs, and mutton, with the smallest possible quantity of stimulants; one grain of quinine, three times daily, from the first, with twenty grains of chloral hydrate at bedtime every night, were all the medicines necessary throughout. I am very strongly inclined to the opinion that the less we dress and physic ovarian cases, the better the results. Apologising for troubling you at so great length, I am, etc., THOMAS CHAMBERS, F.R.C.S. Ed. 2A, Sutherland Street, S.W., September 1871.

EFFECTS OF BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.

DR. JULIUS LEVY, of Berlin, writes:—"In private and public practice I have frequently and for a long time ordered bromide of potassium in drachm-doses or more thrice daily. If continued for months, it is apt to produce (as I believe) a series of boils. If, however, a fair dose of some preparation of cinchona be given with the bromide, I have then never seen any boils or other evil sequelæ arise."

GRATUITIES TO VACCINATORS.

SIR,—I see in the JOURNAL of to-day, at page 359, mention of Government Gratuities to Public Vaccinators. Would you kindly let me know how such gratuities are to be got, as I have been lately appointed Public Vaccinator to this district? September 23rd, 1871. I am, etc., VACCINATOR.

. By strict attention to the Rules for Vaccinators of the Medical Department of the Local Government Board, and by careful vaccination, so as to show good "results."

THE TANNER SCHOLARSHIP.—This proposed memorial was referred to in our issue of August 19th. We are requested to state that the Scholarship will be open to all the Medical Schools in London; and that a Committee is being formed to lay the matter further before the public and the profession. In the mean time, we are asked to mention that Dr. Percy Boulton, in answer to a circular issued amongst some of the patients of the late Dr. Tanner, has received sums amounting to £130:13:0.

THE SOAP AND IODINE LINIMENT OF THE PHARMACOPŒIA.

SIR,—Can any one of your readers inform me whether he ever compounded or purchased the linimentum saponis cum potassii iodido of the *British Pharmacopœia* (1867)? If so, whether he weighed it, or measured it, or succeeded in putting it into a bottle or a pot, or mixed it with anything solid or liquid? If he repeated his experiment either of compounding or purchasing, did he get the same thing, or anything like it? I am, etc., A. SLOWMAN.

DR. EDMUNDS' letter shall appear next week. It is somewhat lengthy, and he will observe that our space is this week subject to great pressure.

UMBILICAL EXCRESCENCE IN AN INFANT.

SIR,—A case similar to the one related in the JOURNAL of September 23rd, occurred in my practice a few months ago. The child, a healthy one, three years of age, had suffered from its malady since it was fifteen months old, and the mother assured me there had been more or less bleeding every day. It was bleeding freely the first time it was brought to me.

Having applied such remedies as I thought suitable for the case—viz., nitrate of silver, perchloride of iron, etc.—but without avail, I resolved to tie a ligature round it. The growth came off on the fourth day. It required no further interference; and there has not been the slightest inconvenience since that time.

I am, etc., J. EDWIN SCOWCROFT, L.R.C.P. Ed., etc.

Bolton, September 26th, 1871.

THE O. W. FUND.

SIR,—Having only just seen, since my return from France, your kind corroboration of a letter addressed by my friend Dr. Lavies to the *Medical Times and Gazette*, on my behalf, I beg you will allow me, through your JOURNAL, to express my gratitude to all those contributors whom, through ignorance of their names and addresses, I have not been able to thank either personally or by letter. September 26th, 1871. I am, etc., O. W.

WE are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Gateshead Observer, Sept. 30th; The Bath Chronicle, Sept. 28th; The Birmingham Morning News, Oct. 2nd; The Liverpool Albion, Oct. 2nd; The Weston Mercury and Somersetshire Herald, Sept. 30th; The Bradford Observer, Sept. 30th; etc.

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

Mr. F. Le Gros Clark, London; Dr. H. Charlton Bastian, London; Dr. William Carter, Liverpool; Mr. A. Allen, Sheffield; Dr. Markham, London; Dr. Orton, Beeston; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. Basham, London; A Member; Mr. H. E. Armstrong, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. R. S. Fowler, Bath; Dr. J. H. Aveling, London; Dr. Edmunds, London; Dr. G. M. Brumwell, Mossley, Manchester; The Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; Dr. Percy Boulton, London; Mr. Arthur Andrews, New Southgate; Mr. John Morgan, Waters Upton, near Wellington; Mr. Rushton Parker, Liverpool; 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. G. F. Hodgson, Brighton; Dr. B. W. Foster, Birmingham; Mr. Henry Lock, Dorchester; Dr. John Chapman, London; The Secretary of the Medical Council; Dr. Rutherford, London; Dr. A. Meadows, London; Dr. Little, London; Dr. F. J. Brown, Rochester; Mr. Jabez Hogg, London; Dr. Brown, Coventry; Dr. Thos. Chambers, London; Mr. Christopher Heath, London; H. F. S.; Dr. Green, London; Surgeon-Major Atchison, Tenby; Dr. Taylor, Cardiff; Mr. H. H. Spencer, Clifton; Dr. Julius Levy, Berlin; A Vaccinator; Dr. W. Erskine, Kincardine; Dr. Hogg, Royal Artillery Institution; Dr. Chadwick, Leeds; Mr. Wheelhouse, Leeds; Mr. Knipe, Melbourne, Derbyshire; Mr. Dawson Turner, D.C.L., Liverpool; Mr. Jessop, Leeds; Mr. Charles Roberts, London; Dr. Daniel Moore, Upper Norwood; The Secretary of the Clinical Society; Dr. Barkas, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. C. S. Webber, London; Dr. Russell, Birmingham; Dr. Siordet, Mentone; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Dr. Nankivell, Torquay; Mr. A. W. Tomkins, Leamington; Mr. Ernest Trestail, Harston; Mr. A. W. Nankivell, Rochester; Dr. A. Wynn Williams, London; Dr. A. E. M' Rae, Fettercairn; Dr. T. H. Green, London; Our Manchester Correspondent; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Mysteries of the Vital Element in connection with Dreams, Somnambulism, Trance, Vital Photography, Faith and Will, Anæsthesia, Nervous Congestion and Creative Function. Modern Spiritualism explained. Second Edition. By Robert H. Collyer, M.D. London: 1871.
The Fourth Report of the East London Hospital for Children and Dispensary for Women, Ratcliff Cross. London: 1871.
The Twenty-Second, Third, and Fourth Reports of St. Mark's Ophthalmic Hospital and Dispensary for Diseases of the Eye and Ear. London: 1871.
Epidemic Cholera. By E. A. Fitzgerald. London: 1871.
On an Aspirator for Use in Thoracentesis, invented by Dr. Vald. Rasmussen, of Copenhagen. By John William Moore, M.D., Ch.M. Dub. Dublin: 1871.
A System of Medicine. Edited by J. Russell Reynolds, M.D., F.R.S. Vol. III. London and New York: 1871.
Organic Philosophy. Vol. III.—Outlines of Biology: Body, Soul, Mind, Spirit. By Hugh Doherty, M.D. London: 1871.
A Digest of Facts relating to the Treatment and Utilisation of Sewage. By W. H. Corfield, M.A., M.B.(Oxon.) Second Edition, corrected and enlarged. London and New York: 1871.
On the Use of the Ophthalmoscope in Diseases of the Nervous System and of the Kidneys; also in certain other Disorders. By Thomas Clifford Allbutt, M.A., M.D. Cantab. London and New York: 1871.
Pulmonary Consumption: its Nature, Varieties, and Treatment. By C. J. B. Williams, M.D., F.R.S., and Charles Theodore Williams, M.A., M.D. Oxon. London: Longmans. 1871.
Report of the Building Committee of the Prudhoe Memorial Convalescent Home, Whitby, North Shields; with a Statement of the Accounts and List of Subscriptions. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: 1871.
The Co-Relations of the Kingdoms of Nature, Providence, and Grace. A Lecture, by John Morgan. Cardiff: 1871.