

1. The Subscribers' Fund Account; 2. The Members' Fund Account. The Auditors of Accounts shall annually, prior to the general meeting, audit such accounts, and shall call for and inspect all books and vouchers and documents relating thereto; and shall report the state of the books and the financial position of the Institution to the general meeting.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE following is an abstract of the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the quarterly Council on the 19th instant. On the President reporting the death of Mr. Samuel Solly, F.R.S., since the last meeting of the Council, and adding that the vacancy thereby occasioned would be filled up at the annual meeting of the Fellows in July next, it was moved by Mr. SOUTH, the senior member of the Council, and seconded by Sir WILLIAM FERGUSON, Bart.—“That the President be requested to convey the sincere condolence of this Council to Mrs. Solly and her family, on the irreparable loss they have sustained by the death of Mr. Samuel Solly.”

The thanks of the Council were unanimously voted to Mr. Francis Kiernan, F.R.S., F.R.C.S., for his valuable donation of pathological specimens to the Museum.

The following report of the Committee on the financial arrangements proposed in the draft scheme for an Examining Board for England was read.

“Your Committee, appointed by the Council on the 24th of July last, ‘to consider and report to the Council on the financial arrangements included in the appendix’ to the draft scheme for an Examining Board for England, have held two meetings, on the 31st of July last, and on this date, and, having considered the same, have agreed to the following report to the Council, viz. :—

“That the following are the propositions contained in the appendix to the draft scheme, viz. :—That one-half of the fees received for the examinations be appropriated to the payment of Examiners, Assessors, and other expenses incidental to the examinations, in such manner as the Committee of Reference may determine, subject to the approval of the co-operating medical authorities. That the remaining half of the fees received for the examinations be appropriated in the following manner : Towards the maintenance of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons as an institution of national as well as professional importance; for its unendowed professorships, and other allied expenses, one-third; in respect of medical qualifications to be granted, one-third; in respect of surgical qualifications to be granted, one-third.

“And that, in the opinion of your Committee, the said propositions should be adopted by the Council, with the following alterations, viz. :—That the fees received for the examinations be appropriated to the payment of Examiners, Assessors, and other expenses incidental to the examinations, in such manner as the Committee of Reference may determine, subject to the approval of the co-operating medical authorities; and that the residue be divided in the following manner, viz. :—Towards the maintenance of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons as an institution of national as well as professional importance; for its unendowed professorships, and other allied expenses, one-third; in respect of medical qualifications to be granted, one-third; in respect of surgical qualifications to be granted, one-third.

“RICHARD QUAIN, *Chairman.*”

It was moved by Mr. LE GROS CLARK, and seconded by Mr. CHARLES HAWKINS—“That the report of the Committee be adopted.” Thereupon the following amendment was proposed by Mr. HANCOCK, and seconded by Dr. HUMPHRY—“That the financial arrangements, as originally proposed in the appendix to the draft scheme for an Examining Board for England, be adopted in lieu of those contained in the report from the Committee.” The votes of the Council having been taken on the amendment, a majority was in its favour.

The sum of ten guineas was voted towards the memorial window to John Hunter in Kensington New Church, on the application of Messrs. Buckland and Merriman, the Honorary Secretaries.

The Secretary reported that Mr. Charles Hawkins had offered to the acceptance of the Council a small coloured engraving of the picture of Henry VIII presenting the Charter to the Barbers and Surgeons.\* The donation was accepted with thanks.

Mr. JOHN GAY gave notice of the following motion at the next meeting of the Council:—“That the proportionately large number of rejections at the preliminary examination for the diploma of the College is a fact which demands the serious consideration of the Council. And that a Committee be appointed to consider the subject, and to report to the Council thereon.”

\* This is a most interesting little picture, and apparently of great rarity, inasmuch as it is unknown to the authorities of the British Museum. Mr. South obtained permission to have it copied for his History of the College, now preparing for publication.

## 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 31st day of October, 1871, at One o'clock *precisely*, to elect a Secretary, and for other important business.

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, F.R.C.S., *General Secretary* (pro tem.)  
13, Newhall Street, Birmingham, October 17th, 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,  
ALFRED SHEEN, M.D., } *Honorary Secretaries.*

October 4th, 1871.

### BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: GENERAL MEETING.

THE first general meeting of this Branch was held on October 12th, at 3 P.M.; present, OLIVER PEMBERTON, Esq., President, in the chair, and sixty-three members and visitors.

*New Members.*—The following gentlemen were elected members of the Association and Branch :—Mr. Evans, Sutton Coldfield; Dr. Jones, Coleshill; Mr. H. C. Moore, Lifford; Mr. J. P. Bradley, Birmingham; Dr. Philpot, Birmingham; Dr. R. L. Campbell, Stourbridge; Dr. Blackwood, Wednesbury; Mr. C. H. Greaves, Stafford; Dr. Crawford, Stafford; Mr. C. E. Handyman, Worcester; Mr. Charles Perks, Burton-on-Trent; Mr. Whitehead, Birmingham; Mr. Briggs, Birmingham.

*Communications.*—I. Dr. JAMES THOMPSON (Leamington) exhibited a specimen of Rupture of the Left Ventricle of the Heart. [See page 496.]

2. Dr. JAMES THOMPSON also showed a specimen of Hereditary Narrowing of the Rectum. The subject from whom the specimen was taken died at the age of forty-eight from chronic peritonitis, the result of the bursting into the peritoneal cavity of an abscess, situated between the upper surface of the right lobe of the liver and the diaphragm, and which appeared to have been caused by an old injury sustained in rowing some years previously. There was a family history of trouble in the lower bowels. During life, several attempts had been at various times made to pass a long tube through the rectum without success. When the specimen was fresh, it with difficulty admitted the passage of the forefinger; there was no induration, and several internal and external hæmorrhoids existed. During life, the finger passed into the rectum reached the opening of the tube, which felt like the os uteri partially dilated.

3. Mr. ARTHUR BRACEY exhibited a case of Congenital Cataract in a girl aged 12 years. When the pupil was fully dilated by atropine, the lens was found to be opaque in its centre only, and a margin of transparent tissue existed. This condition being regarded as permanent, an artificial pupil was made by iridectomy over the clear portion of the lens, and the patient now has excellent vision.

4. Mr. A. BRACEY also brought a patient in whose eye the Lens had become Dislocated into the Anterior Chamber.

5. Mr. LAWSON TAIT showed an ingenious little addition to the obstetrician's armamentarium in the shape of a Thimble for Rupturing the Membranes, devised by Dr. Gordon of Edinburgh. The thimble was most effective, and could, from Mr. Tait's experience, be used without injury.

6. Mr. CARDEN read a paper entitled Some Points in Surgical Experience. The paper gave an interesting account of Mr. Carden's amputation at the knee, with the various criticisms which it had called forth, and the result of the continued experience in its application. It was followed by an interesting discussion.

## AUGUSTUS G. GREAVES, M.R.C.S., DERBY.

MR. GREAVES died somewhat suddenly on October 1st, from thoracic aneurism. He had been in failing health for the last three years, being at times quite unable to attend to his professional duties. He had practised as a surgeon in Derby about thirty-five years. For a great portion of that period he was one of the surgeons of the Derby Provident Dispensary, and up to the time of his death held the appointment of medical attendant of the Diocesan Training College at Derby. Few men had more friends, or were more generally esteemed.

## JOHN BAIN, L.F.P.S. Glasg., JOHNSTONE, RENFREWSHIRE.

MR. JOHN BAIN died on September 22nd, at the early age of twenty-seven, from typhoid fever, of ten days' duration. He commenced his professional career by acting as Surgeon for about a year in the anchor liner, *Britannia*. He was then appointed House-surgeon for the Paisley Infirmary, from which he, sixteen months ago, removed to Johnstone to commence general practice. During the short time he was in Johnstone he made many friends, by whom his early removal is deeply regretted. He was genial, warm-hearted, and unwearied in alleviating the distress of others, and he has died in the discharge of his duty.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—At a meeting of the Council of the College on the 19th instant, Mr. Robert Boyle Travers, of Ros-tellan, co. Cork, was admitted a Fellow; and Mr. Richard Bowes, of Richmond, Yorkshire, was elected a Fellow of the College. The gentlemen are both members of the College: their diplomas bearing date respectively May 21st, 1841, and November 4th, 1831.

The first examination for the present session for membership of the College will take place on the 4th proximo for the primary, and on the 10th for the pass.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, October 19th, 1871.

Carey, Richard John, Northampton  
Kindon, Joseph, Croydon  
Robinson, Edmund, Leeds  
Wall, William Barrow, Wedmore, Somersetshire

KING AND QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN IRELAND.—At the monthly examination, held on October 10th, 11th, and 12th, the following candidates were successful.

*For the Licence to Practise Medicine.*—Sydney Richard Smyth, William Robert Hughes, Henry Thompson Cox, Nicholas Skottowe Smith, Patrick Freebern Gavin, and Frederick A. Ernest Barnardo.

*For the Midwifery Diploma.*—Richard George O'Flaherty, Halton Smyth, Sydney Richard Smyth, Wm. Robt. Hughes, Henry Thompson Cox, Nicholas Skottowe Smith, Fred. A. E. Barnardo, and Patrick Freebern Gavin.

APOTHECARIES' HALL, DUBLIN.—At the preliminary examination in Arts, held on October 19th, the following gentlemen received certificates entitling them to commence their medical studies.

James Roche Nagle, James Henry O'Brennan, Michael Cormac Cullinan, Wm. Moore, Wm. Dunne, James Maurice M'Loughlin, Michael Joseph O'Shea, Robert Edward Donovan, Henry O'Neill, John Albert O'Meehan, William Oliver Deacon, Peter Mulvany, and Francis John Lynch.

The following gentlemen, having passed their professional examinations, obtained the licence to practise.

Hugh Orr, Virginia, co. Cavan; Francis Augustine O'Reilly, Killeshandra, co. Cavan; John Peacocke, Limerick; and Thomas Wm. Myles, Limerick.

## MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

ALNWICK INFIRMARY—Surgeon.  
AXMINSTER UNION, Devon—Medical Officers for the Colyton and Shute Districts.  
CADDER, Parish of, Lanarkshire—Medical Officer for the Western District.  
CARDIGAN UNION—Medical Officer for District No. 3.  
CENTRAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road.  
CHESTER GENERAL INFIRMARY—Dispenser.  
CORK UNION—Medical Officer for the Blackbrook Dispensary District.  
DERBY PROVIDENT DISPENSARY—Two Medical Officers.  
EAST PRESTON UNION, Sussex—Public Vaccinator for District No. 3.  
EASTRY UNION, Kent—Medical Officer for the Deal District.  
EXETER LYING-IN CHARITY—Surgeon.  
FINSBURY DISPENSARY, Brewer Street North—Physician; Resident Medical Officer.

FULHAM UNION—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for District No. 5  
£50 per annum, and extra fees.  
GLENDALE UNION, Northumberland—Medical Officer for the Lowick District.  
GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, Caledonian Road—House-Surgeon.  
GREAT OUSEBURN UNION, Yorkshire—Medical Officer for the Workhouse.  
£30 per annum. Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Great Ouseburn District: £20 per annum, and extra fees.  
HONITON UNION, Devon—Medical Officer for District No. 8.  
HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Brompton—Resident Clinical Assistant.  
HULME DISPENSARY, Manchester—House-Surgeon: £130 to £150 per annum, apartments, coal, gas, and attendance.  
KEIGHLEY, Yorkshire—Medical Officer of Health.  
LIVERPOOL INFIRMARY FOR CHILDREN—House-Surgeon: £80 per ann.  
LONDON FEVER HOSPITAL—Physician.  
LOUDOUN, Ayrshire—Medical Officers for the Newmilns and Darvel Districts: £30 per annum each.  
METROPOLITAN DISPENSARY, Fore Street—Surgeon.  
MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE—Lectureship on Materia Medica.  
NEWPORT, Pembrokeshire—Admiralty Surgeon and Agent; Certifying Factory Surgeon.  
NORTH DEVON INFIRMARY, Barnstaple—House-Surgeon: £100 per annum, board, lodging, etc.  
NORTH UIST, Inverness-shire—Parochial Medical Officer: at least £200 per ann.  
OLD KILPATRICK, Dumbartonshire—Medical Officer for the Western District: £25 per annum; and Sanitary Medical Officer: £5 per annum.  
ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, City Road—Surgeon.  
ROYAL SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL, Guildford—House-Surgeon: £75 per annum, board, residence, and washing.  
ST. GEORGE DISPENSARY, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square—Physician-Accoucheur.  
SMETHWICK, Staffordshire—Medical Officer of Health.  
TYRRE, Aberdeenshire—Parochial Medical Officer.  
WEXFORD UNION—Medical Officer for the Wexford Dispensary District: £120 per annum, and Registration and Vaccination Fees.

## MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

DONOVAN, Humphry J., M.D., appointed Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Emlagh Dispensary District of the Caherciveen Union, co. Kerry, *vice* W. J. Kisby, L.F.P.S. Glasg., L.A.H. Dub.  
DORAN, Alban H. G., Esq., appointed House-Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, *vice* A. J. Hogg, Esq.  
FAGGE, Charles Hilton, M.D., appointed Physician to the London and Westminster Bank, in the room of the late \*Samuel Solly, Esq., F.R.S.  
MACCALL, William N., M.D., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Clinical Hospital and Dispensary for Children, Manchester.  
MAYNE, Charles, Esq., elected Medical Officer for the Killiney Dispensary District of the Rathdown Union, co. Dublin.  
PARRY, Lloyd Davenport, L.R.C.S. Edin., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for Sandy, Orkney, *vice* T. B. Stokoe, M.D.  
\*PARKER, R. W., Esq., appointed House-Surgeon to the London Hospital.

## 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.*

## MARRIAGES.

HALL, W., Esq., of Atherstone, to Ellen Hall, daughter of \*J. HIGGINBOTTOM, Esq., F.R.S., of Nottingham, at Hastings, on October 12th.  
WRIGHT, J. Bampton, M.D., of Wellingborough, to Caroline Addison, second daughter of W. TOLLER, Esq., of Kettering, Northamptonshire, on October 12th.

## DEATHS.

FAITHORN, George, Esq., Surgeon, at Chesham, Bucks, aged 64, lately.  
FAWCUS, James, M.D., Inspector-General of Jails, Lower Provinces, Bengal, in North Shields, of pneumonia, the sequel of fever caught in Calcutta, aged 38, on October 11th.  
JONES.—On October 23rd, at Clebury Mortimer, Salop, aged 65, Anne, wife of \*William Weaver Jones, Esq., Surgeon.  
\*LOWDELL, George, Esq., Surgeon to the Sussex County Hospital, at Brighton, lately.  
\*SHANNON, James, M.D., late of Ennistymon, county Clare, at Dublin, aged 60, on October 2nd.

TAUNTON AND SOMERSET HOSPITAL.—The Treasurer's account shows a deficiency of £534, besides £116 on the building fund account.

MISS BRAKENBURY of Brighton having given £5,000 for the erection of a new building for the Ardwick and Ancoats Dispensary, Manchester, on condition of a site being obtained, the Committee are raising a fund for that purpose and for furnishing, etc. The sum of £1,500 has been already subscribed.

BEQUESTS, DONATIONS, ETC.—Baron Berners has bequeathed £1000 to the Leicester Infirmary, and £1000 to the Leicester and Rutland Lunatic Asylum.—Mr. William Stevens Louch has bequeathed £1000 each to St. George's Hospital, Westminster Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, and the Brompton Hospital for Consumption, etc.; and £200 to the Victoria Infirmary for Sick Children, Chelsea.—Mr. James Staynor, of Ilminster, as the representative of a Committee of Gentlemen, has sent £400 to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

## OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

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

FRIDAY ..... Royal 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. 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.

MONDAY.—Medical Society of London, 8 P.M. Mr. Victor de Méric, "A Case of Traumatic Phthisis"; Dr. Alfred Willsheir, "Oedema of the Lung following Small-pox"; Mr. W. F. Teevan will exhibit some Instruments; Mr. John Pennefather, "On the Sense of Hearing" (with illustrations).

WEDNESDAY.—Royal Microscopical Society, 8 P.M. Dr. Braithwaite, "On Bog Mosses"; Dr. J. J. Woodward, U.S. Army, "On the Scales of Deguria Domestica as seen with Black-ground Illumination"; Mr. W. S. Kent, "On some new Infusoria."—Obstetrical Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. Rasch, "On a novel way of using the Uterine-Sound in Flexions of the Uterus"; Mr. Eugene Goddard, "On a Case of Ovariectomy during Pregnancy"; Dr. Conrad (of Pesth), "On Prolapse of the Female Genital Organs."

THURSDAY.—Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. C. Handfield Jones, "Notices of some of the less usual Phenomena in Chronic Alcoholism."

## EXPECTED OPERATIONS AT THE HOSPITALS.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Saturday, October 28th, 3 P.M. Lithotomy by Mr. Teevan.

## 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.

DR. TAYLOR (Cardiff).—Mr. Morgan's very able pamphlet will no doubt, in the first instance, receive the attention of the Committee of Council. We should like to hear the opinions of the most experienced members of the Committee of Council before commenting on his ingenious proposition.

## MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

We have before us a statement from Dr. Royston, of Westbourne Park, London, referring to the conduct of Mr. Delamark Freeman of Talbot Road. He left that gentleman in charge of his patients during a professional holiday. He states that, on his return, that gentleman continued to attend two of those patients against his wish; and, in a third case, he asked a lady whom he had delivered for Dr. Royston, whether she should in future employ Dr. Royston. We need not say that such conduct as that here described is in the highest degree unprofessional and improper; and we can only hope that Mr. Freeman will be able to clear himself in some way of this very grave charge. Conduct such as is described would be destructive of all professional confidence, and involves, indeed, very serious considerations of honour. We shall hope to hear from Mr. Freeman on the subject.—Notice of another correspondence on a subject of etiquette, between Messrs. Iliff and Tunaley, is unavoidably postponed.

"A WOULD-BE INDIAN SURGEON" complains that the competitive examinations for the Indian Medical Service are not held sufficiently often. They are announced as likely to take place twice a year; none has taken place for two years. This surgeon loses sight of the changes which have taken place consequent on the amalgamation of the two services. The demand must regulate the supply in every service.

VIR LENTUS.—It is usual for all the medical men of the locality to have the option of attending the patients whom they send into the village hospital.

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.

## TREATMENT OF CATARACT BY PHOSPHORUS.

SIR,—Would some of your numerous correspondents kindly inform me if a solution of phosphorus in oil of almonds, as recommended by Dr. Tavignot, has been used in this country for the removal of cataract; and, if so, with what result. Any information on this subject would greatly oblige. I am, etc., A MEMBER.

## PUNCTURE IN TYMPANITES.

SIR,—In justice to Dr. Davey, of Bristol, will you allow me to correct an error in my paper on Punctures of the Colon, in last week's JOURNAL? Dr. Davey's case was recorded in the JOURNAL of August 21st, 1869, and not 1870, as I have inadvertently stated. The priority of this mode of treatment in this country appears to belong to Dr. Davey, as his case was operated on on the 7th October, 1868; while to Dr. Clifford Allbutt belongs the first published record, in the *Practitioner*, February 1869, of a case operated on by Mr. Teale, on January 5th, 1869.

I am, etc., J. HANCOCKE WATHEN.

## DISINFECTANTS.

SIR.—Dr. Domett Stone, in the *Times* of September 28th, makes the following assertion:—"That earth is a disinfectant, no one will deny." I most assuredly deny it. Indeed, this and nearly every other substance mentioned in the letter of Dr. Stone and other writers on the subject of late have no title to the name disinfectant. Disinfection "is the process of dispelling and neutralising contagious miasmata." Most of these substances are simply antiseptics and deodorisers—that is, the decomposers of certain gases, the product of putrefying animal and vegetable matter, in this way preventing the ill consequences that might arise from imbibing these noxious gases, either by inhalation or otherwise; some of them also delaying or preventing putrefaction. Now these are very different from those qualities required for the decomposition of a fresh non-putrid animal poison, such as the poison of scarlet fever, small-pox, cow-pox, etc. These poisons when putrid are as innocuous as animal poisons. May we not then very well ask ourselves the question, as the substances in common use are not disinfectants, but antiseptics, deodorisers, and antiputrescents, whether they do not act in the way the very reverse from what is intended, and, instead of hastening the destruction of specific or fresh animal poisons, prevent or retard their decomposition? and thus it is in the parish of St. Marylebone, at least, that for the last three or four years we appear to have a constant supply of scarlet fever poison ready at hand. I am sure our energetic Officer of Health and his subordinates have most assiduously employed, and at no trifling trouble and expense, the various chemicals recommended by the Privy Council; but with what result? *Nil, nil, nil*, or something worse than *nil*, an increase in the number of deaths; and the disease, instead of being epidemic, becoming persistent. As a disinfectant, I have no faith in anything but the fumes of sulphur—sulphurous acid. A little sulphur may be burned in the room of the invalid, half a dozen times a day, without detriment to the patient. As an antiseptic for the sick room, nothing surpasses the fumes of iodine: a few grains placed on a tile and a lighted lamp placed beneath and carried round the room, will remove any septic poison in a few seconds. A little of the tincture of iodine added to water, into which a piece of putrefying meat may be immersed, will at once remove any septic taint; and, after being washed, the meat may be eaten with impunity. I write this from actual experience. I am, etc.,

1, Montagu Square, October 1871. A. WYNN WILLIAMS, M.D.

## LINIMENTUM POTASSII IODIDI CUM SAPONE.

SIR,—The following modification of an old official German formula for the above preparation, may be of use to your correspondent, "A Slowman":—"White curd soap (Gibbs), 3 ounces; potassium iodide, 18 drachms; glycerine (1.25 s.g.), 12 fluid-drachms; distilled water, 14 fluid-ounces; oil of lemon, 1½ fluid-drachms; spirits of wine, 1 fluid-ounce. Dissolve the soap with eight ounces of water by gentle heat in a water-bath; dissolve the iodide of potassium and glycerine in the remaining water, and heat the solution to the same temperature as the dissolved soap; mix the solutions, stirring constantly until nearly cold; then add the oil of lemon dissolved in spirit.

It is a semitransparent and gelatinous liniment, somewhat resembling in consistency and appearance "Steer's Opodeldoc". It should be weighed and dispensed in a wide-mouthed bottle or a covered jar. If properly made, it never varies in colour or consistence.

The variable result obtained from the official form are, perhaps, due to the olive oil soap ordered to be used. Olive oil differs greatly in the proportions of oleate and palmitate of glycerine which it contains; and consequently the soaps made therefrom differ in a similar manner.

The samples obtained from wholesale houses were doubtless prepared from private recipes; hence their dissimilarity. I am, etc.,

F. J. BARRETT, Pharmaceutist, South Staffordshire General Hospital.

Wolverhampton, October 9th, 1871.

SIR,—In reply to "A Slowman", I beg to state that, for many years, I have been in the habit of adding from half a drachm to one drachm of iodide of potassium to two ounces of the ordinary soap liniment. It is rather slow in dissolving, generally requiring about half an hour; and glycerine may be added or not. I have found it very efficacious in chronic glandular or other swellings, in promoting absorption. I am, etc., OYOR.

## HOUSE-SURGEONS AND FEES FOR NECROPSIES.

SIR,—Can you kindly refer me to the law upon which was founded your reply to Dr. Page's question (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, September 16th, 1871, p. 340) regarding payment to house-surgeons for *post mortem* examinations of patients who die in the house, and oblige Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM HAINING, M.D.

\* \* \* The 5th section of 6 and 7 William IV, c. 89 disentitles the officer of any lunatic asylum, public hospital, or infirmary, from fees for attending inquests on the bodies of persons dying in such infirmaries or hospitals. It does not, of course, disentitle him to fees for inquests on persons brought in dead, and for these cases fees are always paid. So, if in the case of any person dying in a hospital the coroner shall require for his information a *post mortem* examination, this is an extra work, for which the Act requires him to pay an extra fee of a guinea, and he may employ as an expert either the medical officer of the establishment or any other expert. In either case, for this work specially performed by him, he is authorised to pay; and, in case of his declining beforehand to pay the fee, we think the house-surgeon would be justified in requesting him to employ some other expert for the purpose.

**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.

#### ACTION OF CHLORAL ON THE FÆTUS IN UTERO.

SIR.—Recently one of my patients, who was within a few days of the expected time of her confinement, was seized with severe pains in the abdomen and back—the result, I think, of cold. I prescribed chloral hydrate in twenty-grain doses every four hours, with benefit. She took two six-ounce mixtures. Labour set in after a few days, and she was confined of a dead child. It is within the experience of any of your correspondents that chloral hydrate acts injuriously upon the fœtus *in utero*! I am, etc., AN ASSOCIATE.

DR. HJALTELIN (Iceland).—The paper shall appear next week.

#### PRACTITIONERS AS JURYMEN.

SIR.—There is a general impression in our profession that its members are, *virtute officii*, exempt from the annoyance of serving on juries. The enclosed paragraph, extracted from last week's *Malvern Advertiser*, states that—"A question arose as to whether the names of certain medical gentlemen practising in the district, who had not sent in the required claim for exemption, should not be included in the jury list; and Sir Henry Lambert (Chairman, and formerly a barrister) allowed it to be understood that another year that would be done." In the interests of the medical profession, and as a member of it, I solicit your opinion, with any references in support of it in the JOURNAL, on the following questions.

1. Are medical men liable to be summoned as jurymen; and, if so, are they obliged to claim exemption previously to the preparation of jury-lists (which should be advertised in the papers, instead of being affixed to a church door, where very few observe the lists)? 2. Is the statement in the paragraph founded on erroneous data?

It cannot be held to be the duty of practitioners to serve as jurymen when the lives, health, and wellbeing of their patients are imperilled.

I am, etc., STANLEY HAYNES, M.D.

Malvern Link, 11th October, 1871.

\*.\* By the 35th section of the Medical Act, "Every person who shall be registered shall be exempt, if he shall so desire, from serving on all juries and inquests whatsoever, and from serving all corporate, parochial, ward, hundred, and township offices, and from serving in the militia; and the name of such person shall not be returned in any list of persons liable to serve in the militia or in any such office as aforesaid." The exemption of registered medical practitioners is, therefore, a matter of law; and they are never called upon individually to claim it. The *Medical Register* shows their claim to exemption, and this is an official document of which copies are furnished by the Government to the various courts.

MR. CRAISTER (Bramley) would do well to address the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons on the subject. We are strongly of opinion that this person ought to be struck off the College List and off the Medical Register.

#### THE WEST SOMERSET BRANCH: THE DISCUSSION ON CARBOLIC ACID.

SIR.—Practice and recent pathological theory make the above subject one of the most important that can at present engage the inquiry of the profession. As a member present at the meeting on the 3rd instant, when the question "Does application of carbolic acid favour the healing of wounds?" was discussed, my estimation of the verdict was distinctly that, except in one or two presumable cases, carbolic acid should in no form be applied directly to a wound, but that a carbolised outer covering, not in contact with the wound, was found, or (as yet there being no proof) thought to be found, favourable in practice, the theory of its action being questionable; it was certainly not concurred in, that "when used in the *dilute* form of 1 to 4 or 5 of oil, and 1 to 50 or 100 of water, it exercises a very salutary influence, and is a most valuable aid in the treatment of wounds." Oil doubtless lowers in a greater degree than water the violence of carbolic acid as a penetrating caustic; but 1 to 4 or 5 of the former medium, and 1 to 50 or 100 of the latter, are nothing like equivalents; and the meeting did not stultify itself by taking them to be so. The President's remarks were ingenious, and clearly expressed his conviction that a carbolised atmosphere is destructive of germs, and that germs are a morbid cause. I am, etc., PROBE.

October 16th, 1871.

SIR.—From ill health, after thirty years' service, I have resigned my Poor-law appointments, and have asked for a superannuation pension. If the Board of Guardians grant it, can they prevent my carrying on a small private practice here or elsewhere? I am, etc., P. L. O.

\*.\* Certainly not.

#### PAYMENT OF CLUB-SURGEONS.

SIR.—I have for many years past been the medical officer of the Foresters' Court here at St. Mawes. They have, however, lately used me very scurvily; and as they will not tender me an apology, I have resigned my appointment. But it seems upon an inquiry, that only a certain few have the entire management of affairs, and are, I am afraid, actuated by personal motives. Their term of office expires at the end of the quarter; and as the majority of the court seem disposed to support me, I have agreed to again attend them upon the condition that they increase my salary. I have suggested an increase of one shilling *per annum* for both seniors and juveniles. The seniors used to pay me four shillings, and the juveniles two shillings *per annum*. I now require five shillings for the seniors, and three shillings for the juveniles, which will then but hardly requite me for all the attendance, medicines, and appliances that I may be called upon to administer in the course of a year, leaving but a very small balance for profit, as all medical men must be aware who have anything to do with these societies. I may state that the yearly income of many of the members is in excess of my own.

As they are advertising for another surgeon, I have felt it but my duty to let the profession know how matters stand, and also to ask their support on the present occasion. A gentleman in the neighbourhood of Falmouth has, by misrepresentation, been induced to become their champion for a time; but I am happy to say he has just written me to say that, should I be able to come to any understanding with the court, he will be willing to retire. I could have wished that he had told me so at an earlier period; for he must have been sure that I would not have resigned such an appointment without some good cause. I believe I am the first in this part of the world to protest against the miserly pay of the better class of benefit societies to their medical officers; and I shall most certainly look for the support of the whole profession in this most important cause.

St. Mawes, October 16th, 1871.

I am, etc.,

HENRY HARDEN.

#### ACUPRESSURE.

SIR.—In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of October 7th, I observe a letter by Dr. McRae, of Fettercairn, containing strictures on a recent paper on Acupressure, published elsewhere by Dr. Pirrie. Dr. McRae takes exception to the term "inelastic" as applied to iron wire, and seems to doubt the existence of such a material as elastic iron wire. He would, I think, have done more wisely had he—before adopting the sarcastic tone in which his letter is written—made himself acquainted with the properties of the different varieties of iron wire. It requires no very deep knowledge of the mysteries of hardware to be acquainted with the fact that there is hard tempered iron which is elastic, and annealed wire which is inelastic. Any wire-worker will give Dr. McRae ocular proof of their respective qualities, if he wish to extend his information.

Regarding Dr. McRae's remarks on the origin of the method of acupressure, now called torsocclusion, I beg to differ from him; for, though Dr. Knowles did propose it in 1864, Sir J. Y. Simpson had applied it in 1860.

Aberdeen, October 16th, 1871. I am, etc., J. C. OGILVIE WILL, M.D.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Whitehaven News, Oct. 19th; The Durham Chronicle, Oct. 20th; The Carlisle Journal, Oct. 20th; The Merthyr Express and Advertiser for the Coal Districts of South Wales, Oct. 21st; The Sunderland and Durham County Herald, Oct. 20th; Saunders's News-letter and Daily Advertiser, Oct. 23rd; etc.

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

Dr. Smart, Penge; Dr. T. Clifford Allbutt, Leeds; Dr. J. D. Heaton, Leeds; Mr. Erichsen, London; Mr. Guest, Manchester; Dr. J. G. Davey, Northwoods, Bristol; Dr. Hitchman, Mickleover; Mr. H. Cooke, Wicklow; Dr. J. Ingleby Mackenzie, Sidmouth; Dr. Althaus, London; Mr. Benson Baker, London; The Secretary of the Pathological Society; Mr. Teevan, London; Mr. W. Weaver Jones, Cleobury Mortimer; Dr. Bradbury, Cambridge; Mr. Millican, Lerwick; Mr. Fay, Liverpool; Dr. C. C. Ritchie, Manchester; Mr. Leeds, Sheffield; The Secretary of the College of Surgeons, Scotland; Dr. Skinner, Liverpool; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. Phillips, Jersey; Mr. W. H. Ashurst, London; Sir Francis Hicks, St. Thomas's Hospital; Mr. Foster White, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Dr. Nichol, Bradford; Mr. J. W. Burman, Wakefield; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. Holmes, London; W. D. L., London; Mr. Bartlett, Birmingham; Dr. Drysdale, London; Dr. Wade, Birmingham; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. T. Watkin Williams, Birmingham; The Secretary of the Obstetrical Society; Dr. Liebreich, London; Dr. A. W. Edis, London; Mr. T. J. Dyke, Merthyr Tydfil; Dr. R. H. Taylor, Liverpool; Mr. Craister, Bramley; An Associate; Dr. J. Crichton Browne, Wakefield; Mr. Morrison, Hanwell; Dr. G. F. Burder, Bristol; Mr. Philip Grubb, Warminster; Dr. Nankivell, Torquay; The Registrar-General of England; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; The Registrar of the Medical Society of London; Dr. Dalby, London; Dr. John Chiene, Edinburgh; Mr. John Calder, Liverpool; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Dr. Nolan, Dublin; Mr. Waterhouse, Pontypridd; Dr. Ketchen, Middlesbrough; Mr. S. C. Hirst, Bowling, Bradford; Dr. Markheim, Paris; Dr. Milner Fothergill, Leeds; Our Vienna Correspondent; Mr. A. Dunbar, Uttroxteter; Mr. R. J. Harvey, Dublin; The Matron of the Skin Dispensary, Manchester; Dr. R. Elliot, Carlisle; Mr. J. R. Armstrong, Lamberhurst; Mr. J. A. McBride, Cirencester; Mr. J. Nicholson, Stratford; Dr. C. Kidd, London; Dr. Taylor, Cardiff; Dr. A. White, Ben Rhydding; Dr. Liveing, London; Mr. C. Steele, Bristol; Dr. Moore, Dublin; Dr. Wade, Birmingham; Dr. Sheen, Cardiff; Mr. Sergeant; The Secretary of the Medical Society; Mr. Reginald Harrison, Liverpool; Dr. Grimshaw, Dublin; Dr. J. H. Houghton, Dudley; Mr. Wathen, Fishguard; Mr. R. W. O. Withers, Shrewsbury; Dr. Buchanan, Glasgow; Mr. P. H. Holland, London; A Member; Mr. W. Talbot King, London; Dr. Braxton Hicks, London; Mr. G. D. Brown, Ealing; Cantab; Dr. Footman, London; Dr. J. G. Lock, Tenby; Dr. Playfair, London; Dr. Burke Ryan, London; etc.

#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Introductory Notes on Lying-in Institutions: together with a Proposal for Organising an Institution for Training Midwives and Midwifery Nurses. By Florence Nightingale. London: 1871.  
The Skim-Milk Treatment of Diabetes and Bright's Disease: with Clinical Observations on the Symptoms and Pathology of these Affections. By A. S. Donkin, M.D. Edin., M.D. Durh. London: 1871.  
The Cathedrals and the Lancers' Bridge; or the Madhouse and its Inmates. Great Yarmouth: 1871.  
Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Physic, delivered at King's College, London. By Sir Thomas Watson, Bart., M.D., F.R.S. Vols. i and ii. Fifth Edition, revised and enlarged. London: 1871.  
Annual Report of the Infirmary for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Charles Street, Portman Square. London: 1871.  
The Science and Practice of Surgery. Illustrated by Four Hundred and Seventy Wood Engravings. By Frederick James Gant, F.R.C.S. London: 1871.  
Notes on Comparative Anatomy: A Syllabus of a Course of Lectures delivered at St. Thomas's Hospital. By William Miller Ord, M.B. Lond., M.R.C.P. London: 1871.  
The Family Medical Guide: with Plain Directions for the Treatment of every Case, and a List of the Medicines required for any Household. By George Fullerton, C.M. and M.D. Edin. London: 1871.  
Reports of Dr. Parkes and Dr. Sanderson on the Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Liverpool.  
Biological Science in relation to Religious Belief: being the Introductory Address delivered at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, October 2nd, 1871. By Alfred Meadows, M.D., M.R.C.P. London: 1871.